

XXXII Da. Italians

I

Biography of Mr. C. M. by M. Rinnoli.
Mr. C. M. as 45 years of age married with 4
children.

I was Born in Cirelio Province of Pistoia Italy
the year 1891 my father was a peasant as well my
mother. On my youth they send me to the
friar convent to study. They wanted to educate
me as a catholic priest, I didnt like that but
I could say nothing. I studied there up to
19 years of age then I ran away; this was the
1910. I went in France and there it was not
hard to finde a job in an office due that
in the convent I learned quite well french
I worked there for 3 years and then decided
to come to the U. S. I decided to come in the U.
S. Because I heard that the standart of
living was much higher then the European.
On the beginning of September 1913 I landed in
New York from "La Lorraine". In New York
I finded work for a small newspaper the wages
wasnt so hg but I decided to get married.
When the U. S. Entered the world war I enlisted
and I was abroad, but telling you the truth
I dont know how I could come bak due
to the way in wich I was gassed.

II

When I returned I was still invalid and they put me in a hospital I wanted to go home to see my family and I didn't know that my wife had divorced me and married an other man. There was the war premium. In few months I was released from the hospital but I had no family any more, no house, no work. I started a new finded a job and in 1923 got married again and out of these marriage I have 2 childrens I saved some money but I speculated in the stock market I and I lost everything then I decided to change and I came to San Francisco, I finded work in a grocerie but here business dropped and now I work only 2 or 3 day a week

1624
Born in Pisa, Italy 60 years ago. He came to this country at the age of 20. He had 4 years schooling. (As he had friends in San Leandro; he decided to migrate.)

Since coming here he has many jobs, mostly labor work.

He had worked steadily up to 1929. Since then he has had to live on his son, who is married and has a very good position in Oakland.

His father was a small landowner.

He feels well satisfied in coming to America as he owns his own home and would be fairly well off had the conditions not happened as they did in 1929.



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Mr. Roberto G----- is 36 years old, and the proprietor of a small machine shop. He is married and has two children, both of them resembling their mother. When approached Mr. G----- discussed his history with great readiness. He was, in fact, most confidential. However, he was inclined to slight the more prosaic aspects of his biography and preferred to discuss mainly his amorous exploits, all of which he contrived to clothe in the most romantic of garments. He is a handsome man with an olive complexion, regular features, languishing eyes, and a thick cluster of black curls which age does not seem to thin out at all.

He was born in Turin, Italy, and was taught by his parents and by his early associates that he belonged, by authority of his Piedmontese birthright, to the select of the Latin race. An aristocratic scorn for his countrymen who are so unfortunate as to have sprouted from southern soil has continued to color his conception of Italy and the subjects of Italian government to the present time.

He served an early apprenticeship in the machine shop of his father, under the more direct supervision of an older brother, and worked as a third partner in the shop at the termination of his apprenticeship. But his Piedmontese ideas of superiority, which he had taken rather too seriously, could not be reconciled to a continued existence as the younger-brother-partner in a family shop. He made plans for dissolving his relationship with the shop and prepared to consolidate his visionary dream of a shop in America.

The World War prevented an early realization of his plans. He served in the Italian army, seeing service in the front lines for the last three months of the war. He attained here for the first time a definite feeling of mediocrity, induced no doubt by his life as a private in the army ranks. In his own words, "I saw I wasn't such a big shot in the army."

Immediately after his demobilization in the early part of 1919, he sought a passport for America, where he believed he could re-establish a feeling of independence and superiority. He was encouraged in this belief by a friend of his father's who lived in San Francisco and with whom he had opened a correspondence in order to get information direct from the states as to possibilities for a machinist there.

He arrived in New York in July of 1919, spending only a few days there before he left for Newark, N.J., in answer to advertisements for machinists in that city. His first job in Newark, one of the advertised openings, was in a large industrial plant whose workers were out on strike. He was used as a scab for the entire length of the strike, without, he insists, knowing that he was being so used. Later he worked in Detroit, then in Minneapolis, Cleveland and Pittsburg. He worked only to save money in accordance with his old plan for establishing a machine shop of his own. He deprived himself of social life in order to put more of his wages in the bank. Although he desperately longed to invite Italian girls who roomed in the same house with him (he always roomed with Italian families, never even thinking of mingling with the people of the country which was to render him financially secure and independent), although, then, he desired to invite the Italian girls to go out with him he deprived his longings of their natural fruition in order to build more rapidly the fund which was necessary for the opening of his shop.

Early in 1923, after interminable communications with the friend in San Francisco, he gave up his job in Pittsburg, withdrew his money from the bank and started across the continent, flushed with a belief in his own ability to succeed. His capital covered the initial payments on the equipment necessary to the establishing of a shop and the rent, for six months, on the back half of a deserted bakery located in the North Branch neighborhood of San Francisco. He was, however, unfortunately, as other

II

ated in the North Beach section of San Francisco. He calculated carefully, counting on personal contacts made possible through his father's friend for an initial patronage of his enterprise. He had the advantage of being centrally located for the clientele which he wished to cultivate and on which he counted as a means of a very gradually acquiring a more than mere modest livelihood. Within two years he had taken a lease on the entire building and had working under him a young Italian fellow who was born in southern Italy and therefore not liable to demand extortionate wages from his master, the Piedmontese. A first class mechanic, accepting the necessity for long hours of labor in order that work should be promptly and satisfactorily completed, he was establishing himself in the North Beach section of the city and he had no desire to advance beyond its boundaries.

At this time he felt that he could look for the long deferred wife. He was now able to support a wife and would, if business continued to prosper, be able to care for babies as they came. So with the same methodical approach which he had employed in the establishment of a machine shop, he sought contact with Italian girls who could serve his needs. He was extremely fortunate. His early efforts brought him an acquaintanceship with a Piedmontese family consisting of father, mother, twenty year old blond daughter and two youngsters of undetermined age. He gorged his pride in the prospect of perpetuating a pure strain of Italian blood....more, Piedmontese blood. He had not demanded this. It came as the hand of fortune directing his domestic course. Fortune did not take into account the old-world background of Roberto G.! Along with his racial and sectional pride, his cultivated beliefs included an egoistic certainty that Man was born to rule Woman. His wife, as he had dreamed through the years, would accept his business, his conjugal domination, his thoughts, himself, in short, with a devoted submissiveness. And this Maria S. refused to do. That blond parcel, fortune's temptingly wrapped but too dynamic gift, had been born and bred to imperious assertiveness. She was the fuse which ignited his most ardent emotions but she scrapped his intuitive assurance of male superiority together with a demand for a civil sanctification of their most convenient relationship. She was too much the modern American girl, giving, taking, never a fairer shooter than Maria; she kept him in high dudgeon by her ridicule of his old-country desire to convert her to a permanent appendage of Roberto! What could he do? She held strings around him, did Maria.

Late in 1928 Roberto commenced preparations for a trip to Italy. In February 1929 he sailed, waving a long farewell from the steamship to Maria, having divulged never a whisper regarding the prime reason for his return to his native land. He says he did not write to Maria because he felt it would not be the act of a gentleman, considering his plans to select an obedient spouse, and legal, while abroad. He did send a formal announcement of the wedding; she was entitled to know of his married status before he returned. At this time, too, he paid extended respects to his numerous Piedmontese relations and gathered their various opinions of the dictator, Il Duce. His father was the only one who spoke in open wrath against Mussolini. But it was constantly impressed upon Roberto that the various small businesses of his family and his friends were "walking out from them", as he put it. Friends with plans for an independent livelihood, similar to his own, who had remained in Italy, he found working, almost without exception, as day laborers in industrial enterprises owned by "the very rich men". His own father and brother had lost their shop. But this he had known before he left America. Hadn't he sent them money to no avail when times grew worse? His conclusions regarding the affect of the reign of Il Duce is given in his own terse way: "He send the country to hell but he teach the women right!"

The Duce-taught wife Roberto selected for himself comes from southern Italy. She is as dark as Maria was fair; as docile as the fair one rebellious. She speaks no English, or very little. She doesn't expect anything better from life than the

III

privelege of supplying Roberto with comforts and children. The comforts he accepts as his due...He is a little anxious about his prospects for caring for any more children. He had expected a continuous growth of his business. When, however, he returned to San Francisco in September of 1929 he was sufficiently cautious not to expend any large sum of money for a house for his bride. He rented satisfactory quarters. And he has continued to rent living quarters. The expected business expansion did not materialize, a fact which remains quite inexplicable to Roberto. But on this matter, he seemed reluctant to expand his views. He did tell me, with evident relish, that he had continued to spend time with Maria after his return with his wife. When, however, Maria contracted a legal husband for herself, he found himself thrown back upon his more permanent selection. He hasn't yet reached an age when he's satisfied with that! And since parting with Maria he has left a trail of broken hearts! North Beach girls, who like Maria, have individual ways. Perhaps the wife knows. Yes perhaps. But she accepts her lot in the most passive spirit. Roberto derives much satisfaction from the contemplation of this fact.

No. 1. . Time: 14 hours

San Francisco Calif
Nov. 27, 1934

Mr Paul Radin.
177 Post St
San Francisco Calif.

1896

Gentlemen:-

I met Mr X. an Italian who was born in Genoa Italy. At the age two he moved to Paris, France, where he lived until the age of ten.

When leaving Paris, they embarked at Le Harve as supercargo to on a sailing vessel to San Francisco. The family consisted of two brothers, a mother and father.

On arriving in San Francisco, the Dad was employed as a reviser, at the Union Iron in Potrero District.

He refused to give any personal information regarding his family

Respectfully

Raymond Smith

William Samu
#1471

1507

"Italian"

Born near Genoa, Italy, he was one of 10 children. The father worked in the quarry and died at the age of 44 years. The children received but a religious education. An uncle had the mother and children come to Sicily to live after the father's death.

This man was but 17 years of age and did not wish to go to Sicily so he and an older brother went to Genoa and got work in the wharfs. They were brooked about quite a bit but got a lot of experience.

At the age of 19 he parted with his brother and came to America. He was supposed to return to Italy on the same steamer but meeting another fellow that he knew who was coming to America to live decided to stay in America too.

2

They lived in the lower section of New York City and seemed to enjoy life to its fullest.

Both he and his friend got a job as waiters during the winter in a bar room. In the summer as waiters in a Beer Garden at Coney Island. where they accumulated quite a bank account from tips received. He followed this occupation from 1900 to 1910.

He was married to an Italian immigrant girl when 28 years of age. In two years they had three children all boys, the first two being twins. The liquor business seemed to appeal to him so he and his friend went into that business and after 4 years operation they sold out at a good profit. They then opened an eating place which they operated for one year then decided to come to California and go into the wine business.

They came to Fresno, Calif. where they had already purchased a ranch thru a New York bank. That was in 1915.

He has always regretted this change. They raised grapes after a lot of hard labor and much sickness. They made a little money but were forced to mortgage their Ranch and his friend died leaving a family of 5 children he had a very hard time. Losing the Ranch he started to work as a hired hand.

His twin sons married, and one went back East in 1929. and did quite well in business.

His wife and 14 yr. old daughter are now living with a married daughter in Fresno. He is here in San Francisco working in a Restaurant in the Italian section and is not at all contented.

Angelo C.
Italian, Male
Born, Southern Italy

Angelo's father was a peasant tenant farmer. He had numerous brothers and sisters. Ever since he was a little boy he has wanted to come to America. His uncle who had lived here some little time sent money for him to come over. He stayed in the east for five years working as an extra hand on truck farms in the summer and doing odd jobs when he could get them, in the winter. He was living with his uncle. One winter he was sick, I imagine with pneumonia, and nearly died. When he got well, he decided to come to California and join his father's oldest brother who was out here. He had saved more than enough to get out here. When he ^{arrived} ~~got~~ here, he found some employment as a gardener. Then a friend of his uncle had a piece of land which was lying unused with a little house on it. Angelo decided to start a dairy farm. He married and had five children. His wife died in childbirth. Shortly after this, they decided to open a road over the site of his house, and bought quite a tract of land from his landlord.

The dairy farm was on the whole, quite successful. He has never married again. At present he is living ~~down~~ in Oakland, but ~~goes~~ ^{goes} up to work as a gardener every day in Claremont.

I think the ~~patch~~ of the story because the patch of ground Angelo rented was not far from our house.

He likes America pretty well, but there aren't so many jobs as before. I have strongly suspected, though I do not know, that Angelo's barn served as a bootlegging station, for once, when I was coming home late at night the doors stood wide open and inside stood what looked like a wood vat to hold wine.

10

Analized
(1578)

George B.
Italian, Male
Born, Near Naples

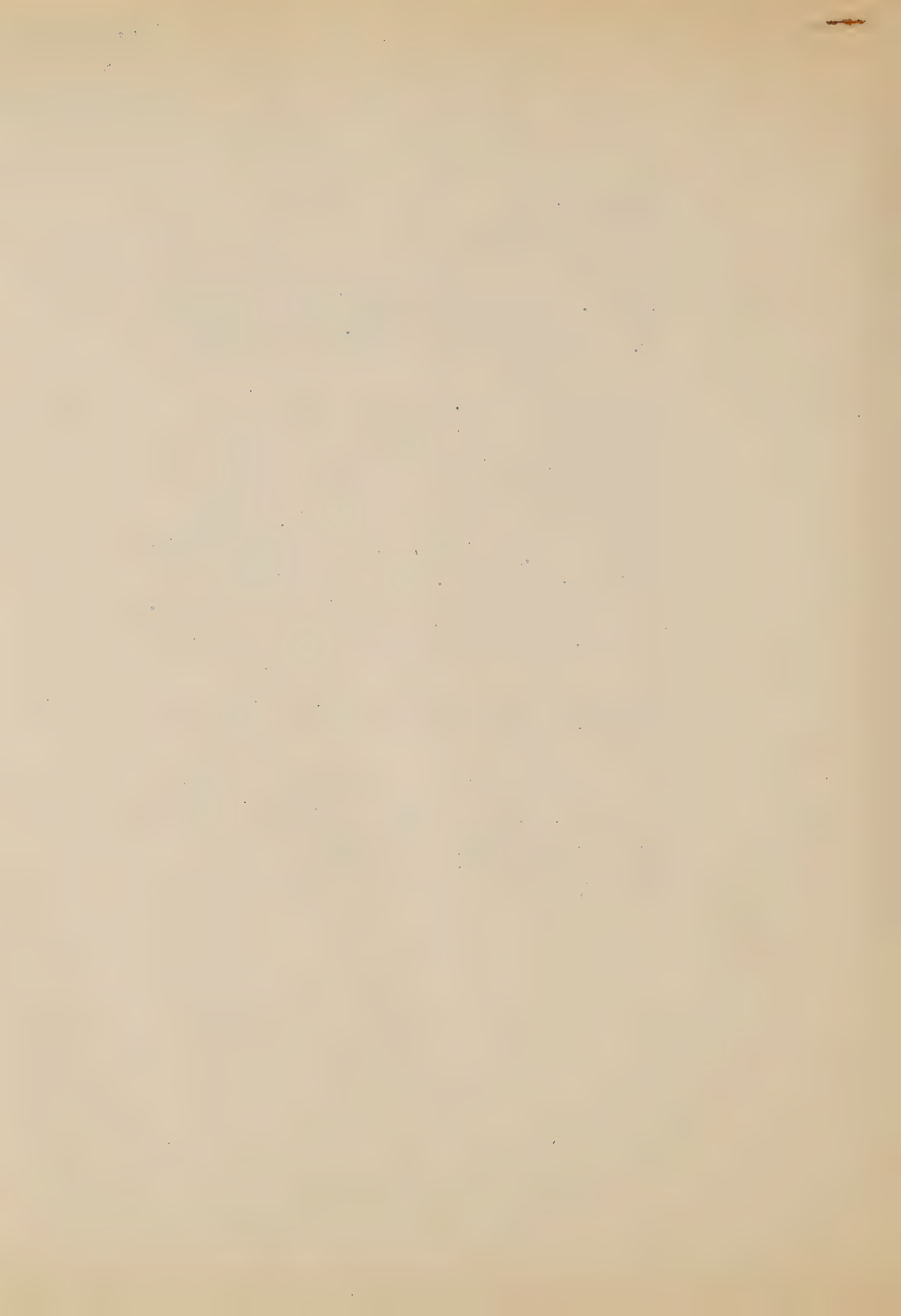
7 George's father was a gardener on a large estate. He grew up to have an artistic eye and a way with plants. When quite young, he was the head gardener of quite a large villa.

AP When about 30 or a little less he was imported by a rich man to California to take care of and build up his garden. He has resided here ever since with progressively better economic status. A house was built for him on the estate, and he and his family have become integral parts of it. He has felt the depression somewhat, recently, for his employer has been forced to cut his wages slightly.

However, he has a good bit saved up. He is able to keep a car, et cetera.

AP Both George and his wife speak very little English, so Italian is the only language spoken at home.

AP This little family is probably more Italian as in Italy than anyone you can easily find. They are isolated with a house of Italian architecture, apparently picked up life here just where they left it in the old country.



Italian

1574
ANALYZED

This fellow was born in Mout, Italy, in the province of Calabria in 1904. He has very little education although he was taught a few of the fundamentals of his father. His father was a fisherman and it was through him that he learned how to be a sailor. He is now engaged in a line of work on the San Francisco-Berkeley Ferry.

He lived in Italy until he was sixteen years old, during which time he helped his father and became proficient in the fundamentals of seamanship. He came to the United States, landing in New York, where the family lived for a number of years until about 1926. His father was called back to Italy upon the outbreak of the war, and he decided to stay with his family, especially his mother, he got a job in the shipbuilding yards as an apprentice, where he continued working throughout the war. During this time he married a woman of his own nationality in New York and has six children, four boys and two girls.

After the war he was laid off of his job and got a job on one of the larger ship lines sailing to Europe and later was employed on another line sailing to South America. However, he failed to settle down and became tired of the long trips away from home, so he left for San Francisco on the advice of friends living there, who wrote him that the opportunities in his line of work were many.

Upon arriving here he got a job in one of the shipbuilding yards, through the help of his friends and continued at this for less than a year. He then got an easier job on the ferry company's boats. At this time he is well satisfied and although it is less remunerative than the work he did in Italy, it is much easier. He appears to be satisfied.

The depression affected him in so far that it resulted in pay cuts and a decreased standard of living, having bought furniture and other articles on the installment plan at high prices.

He stated that he encountered no prejudice toward him as a foreigner, but as nearly all of his social contacts are of his own nationality, he would, of course, find it so. He stated that he would like to go back to Italy and relive those days with his father, but he believes conditions are much poorer in Italy than here and he is too set in his ways to start over again.

— Talia — 1557

The immigrant is a native of the town of
Bene in the central eastern part of Italy.

The town is one of about thirty five thousand
inhabitants, situated about 100 miles inland
from the Adriatic Sea.

The son of peasants, he followed various callings
for a living, and none of them very successful.
He was at different times employed in the wool
mills, as a porter in the church, and lastly in
the water department as laborer.

The pay of any of his jobs, was very poor compared
to the enormous rate of pay.

Having tried to try to get on in his home
town, he moved to the port town of Ancona.

After knocking around in Ancona for a few weeks,
he obtained a job as deck hand on a steamer, with
a cargo of corn for Naples.

Arriving in Naples he was discharged, even being
cheated out of the little money that was coming to him.
Had a real hard time making both ends meet as
the port of Naples was overcrowded with men
out of work.

Eventually got a job as water tender on an Italian
Passenger and cargo steamer.

Made one trip to The Argentine Republic, and another one to Ecuador.

Spent so much of The United States from The different sailors he had met, because he would emigrate to America.

He was over eight months before he was able to get passports, as The quota had been filled, and he had to wait his turn.

Eventually arrived in New York City, and after there almost a month, he went to Reading, Penn., where he had no trouble getting a job with The Pennsylvania R. R. Co., as laborer. Started to work for \$1.60 a day, working along steadily, until he was getting \$2.25 as a straw boss.

For many Italians of the wrong sort, mostly Sicilians, to suit him, so he quit and moved on to Chicago, where also went to work for the R. R. Worked in Chicago Yards for half year, and still being dissatisfied, he headed for California.

As picked up The English language fairly well, he had not been in San Francisco very long before he captured a job with The Southern Sheep Co. Again he has become a straw boss in the construction

gang, but this time the men under him are
 Africans, and, very easy to handle
 has been making \$350 a day for some time,
 and having married in the meantime, everything
 seems to be going all right for him at present
 but as the S. R. keeps laying off hands as they
 are doing, he is wondering how soon it will
 be his turn; he is not worried, as he has been
 able to save up quite a bit of money.
 As far as living conditions in this country in
 comparison to conditions in Italy, there is no comparison
 in this country they live, and in the old country
 they exist.
 Furthermore the United States has nothing to fear,
 whilst Europe is sitting on a powder keg.
 Politically, everything is Mussolini, and will
 be it any more, that thinks and says otherwise,
 they just seem to disappear from off the earth
 and no questions asked.
 has his first paper, and is impatiently waiting for the
 time when he will receive his second paper, a citizen.
 This man is honest and a hard worker no doubt, and
 will make a decent law abiding citizen.

Ever

your friend

Guar

1540

2. *Alouatta palliata*

Stated, married and is now the father
of 3 children. He is to obtain work at
his house. He came a Motorman for
the Montreal-Windward Highway where
he is still employed in same capacity.

In reference to Stated can strike
conditions. He will meet of other workmen
as ship man, hand loader, motor man etc.
In general they do not appear very
pleased with the substitution agreement
made by their representatives.

Working hours to be from 7.5 to 7.8
hours per week, working over, wanting
to work longer hours so as to make
more money.

The duration of the new wage scale
to be for two years, starting January
1935.

The increase in wages to be approxi-
mately of 12 1/2 cents per hour.

Men receiving fifty cents per hour
will receive sixty two and half cents.

Mostly being disappointed as they expected
seventy to seventy two cents per hour.

A person bonus of two cents per hour
was payable to them every three months
is to be discontinued.

so the increase in wages is upheld.

Stated

by less working hours and the weekly
 salaries will not be any larger.

In all probability the same strike
 will take place two years from now.

Practically no strikers have returned
 to work.

All shapemen, as mechanics,
 painters, metal workers etc. where
 similar arrangements have been made
 are mostly disappointed.

L. D.'s brother remained in the S. A.
 City where he became a very prominent
 building contractor of good financial
 standing.

Shapemen

157

1470

San Francisco Cal. Nov. 26-31

Statement of Angelo Fabbro

Born in 1907 at our farm located 20 miles from Venice, Italy. There was 3 boys & one girl in our family, we all worked on the farm as workers & ranging from 5 yrs old and up, our work was such as regular farming. My parents and their parents worked the same farm. We were taken when boys twice a year on holidays to Venice, which was my most hardest time at home. We had a 19 room house where we all lived including our relations 35 people in all. I do not care to tell how we lived there but we managed to get along and had some good times.

When I was 11 yrs old we were all put under guard by the Austrian police on account of war and could do nothing but like prison.

East in 1929 and did quite well in business. His wife and 14 year old daughter

during this time we suffered very
much, and I don't want any more
of that. In 1923 I came to this country
where I have been ever since and
am very glad to be here. I am
going to get my citizens papers and
intending to stay here. I might go back
for a visit some time if I can get
enough money. I am single
and have been working in restaurant
since I came here. I am ^{now} tending
bar where I got a good job.
My parents are ~~living~~ living
so are my Brothers & Sisters.

I am strong & in good health
and can do most any kind of
hard work I am used to it but I
like my job better now.

A. H. Burt

Typing
~~William Saum.~~

ITALIAN

1507
ANALYZED

Giuseppe was
Born in Genoa, Italy, he was one of ten children. The father worked in the quarry and died at the age of 44 years. The children received but a religious education. An uncle had the mother and children come to Sicily to live after the father's death. *Giuseppe* This man was but 17 years of age and did not wish to go to Sicily so he and an older brother went to Genoa and got work in the wharfs. They were knocked about quite a bit but got a lot of experience. At the age of 19 he parted with his brother and came to America. He was supposed to return to Italy on the same steamer but meeting another fellow that he knew who was coming to America to live decided to stay in America too. They lived in the lower section of N.Y. City and seemed to enjoy life to its fullest. Both he and his friend got a job as waiter during the winter in a bar room. In the summer, as waiters in a beer garden at Coney Island where they accumulated quite a bank account through tips received. He followed this occupation from 1900 to 1910.
He was married to an Italian immigrant girl when 28 years of age. In two years they had three children, all boys. The first two *were* being twins. The liquor business seemed to appeal to him so he and his friend went *right* into that business and after 4 years operation they sold out at a good profit. They then *opened* an eating place which they operated for one year *when* then decided to come to California and go into the wine business. They came to Fresno, where they had already purchased a ranch through a New York bank. That was in 1915. He has always regretted this change. They raised grapes after a lot of hard labor and *in* sickness. They made a little *money* but were forced to mortgage their ranch and his friend died leaving a family of 5 children. *in* He had a very hard time, *losing* the ranch he started to work as a hired hand. His twin sons married and *one* back East in 1929 and did quite well in business. His wife and 14 year old daughter

are now living with a married daughter in Fresno. He is here in ^{San Francisco} ~~S.F.~~ working
in a restaurant in the Italian section and is not at all contented.

~~Glaubert.~~

1540 Sociological

L.A. was born at Genoa, city of western Italy in the year of 1895. Was of fairly well to do parents, a family of 8--3 girls, and 5 boys. The father a marble sculptor doing mostly cemetery work (carving tombstones) and making a very good living. All children were given a moderate education in that city's public schools. After completing his schooling L.A. worked in his father's shop until the age of 17. He left town with his oldest brother, they both worked as sculptors in the city of Milan (Italy) for 2 years. Both brothers went to Naples (southern Italian port) where they remained a very short time embarked on an Italian steamer ~~N.Y.~~ ^{New York} City as destination where they arrived in October 1917. L.A. worked for 2 years in ~~N.Y. city~~ ^{New York City} as wood carver. Arrived in ~~S.F.~~ ^{San Francisco} California in May 1919 worked at his profession for 4 years for one of his countrymen. Became a citizen of the ~~U.S.~~ ^{United States} married and is now the father of 3 children. Unable to obtain work at his trade, he became a motorman for the Market street Ry company where he is still employed in same capacity. The reference to street car strike conditions he like most of other workmen as shopmen, conductors, motormen in general men do not appear very pleased with the arbitration agreements made by their representatives working hours to be from 40 to 48 hours per week many men wanted to work longer hours so as to make more money. The duration of the new wage scale is to be for two years starting February 1935. The increase in wages to be approximately ~~of~~ 12½ cents per hour. Men receiving fifty cents per hour will receive sixty two and one half cents. Mostly being disappointed as they expected seventy to seventy two cents per hour. A. previous bonus of two cents per hour was payable

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to them every three months is to be discontinued. So the increase in wages is upset by less working hours and the weekly salaries will not be any larger. In all probabality ~~the~~ other strikes will take place two years from now. Practically all strikers have returned to work. All shopmen, ~~and~~ mechanics, painters, metal workers, where similar arrangements have been made are mostly dissatisfied. L.A.'s brother remained in ~~N.Y.~~ ^{New York} City where he became a very prominent building contractor of good financial standing.

~~William~~ Baum

1471

1541

"Italian"

Born in Florence, Italy in 1885. Was the oldest of five boys. His father was a hard worker and operated a wine press and the boys soon as they were old enough had to help with this work.

The family was large and the income limited so the education of the children was limited, they going to school until about the age of 12 years and were then forced to do various duties to help along with the expenses.

As this man grew into young manhood he was quite a husky fellow and became very much interested in boxing and took part in quite a number of amateur bouts and being of a saving type



2
did manage to accumulate quite a sum of money

At the age of 21 years he and two other countrymen came to the United States arriving in New York without knowing anyone but since the three of them were together they managed to get along alright.

He thought he could pick up some "easy money" by doing a little buying but he soon found out that the Americans had a few "tricks" that he did not know about so decided to give that up while he was "all together".

He then got a job as a "bouncer" in a lower New York bar room where he worked for a year, he did not mind this job so much for it gave

him a chance to "show off" his strength. After that he drove a beer truck for two years.

When the World War threatened he went back home to be with his mother who was in poor health and who later died.

After the close of the War he again returned to America and worked as a dock hand in New York City.

In 1922 he took a job on an oil tanker for the Standard Oil Co. from New York to San Francisco, holding this job for 3 years. He then went to Central America where he spent 2 years.

Again taking to the sea he eventually landed in San Francisco in 1930 and secured a job as dock hand on a Southern Pacific Ferry where he is still employed. He never married.

1587

submitted by
H.C.Beckwith
Dec.10th1934.

Italian.

The Bay of Naples is without a doubt one of the world's most beautiful bays, forming as it does a perfect crescent of opalescent blue; in the background, the mighty sentinel of old, Vesuvius.

Referring to Naples, the city of his birth; it was in glowing terms that Frank related to me, its wonders. His father, a cobbler by trade, was at one time a chief of police of that fair city, and later, a special tax collector.

An uncle was the first to migrate to America, to be followed five years later by Frank's father, who had lost much of his wealth and because of ill health. Two years later, Frank, then eleven years of age, joined his father in New York City, remaining for one year before coming West to San Francisco.

As a cobbler of shoes, the traditional family trade, Frank earns his livelihood, being a good mender of soles. He is happily married and has his final papers.

1917

Biography of Mr. G. D. by Riccioli

I was born the year 1898 in Pioraco province of Macerata. My father was a stone mason my mother a house wife. In my youth I went to the elementary school. At 12 years I had to start to go to work as; apprentice stone mason in Pioraco; but I was not satisfied I wanted to learn little more and better and earn more, so I went to Rome and worked there until 1915. I was not earning enough so I went to the province of Treviso working for the king doms in the fortification against Austria were I remained till February 1917. In February 1917 I was recruited into the regular army and was assigned to the 77 battaglione 177 company maintenance corp. (Genio Trappatori). Around four months after I was send to the front and I remained up to the defeat of Caporetto. During the defeat I was made prisoner by the austrian wich they kept me in peregrination for a month. from Opicina to Lubiana from Lubiana to Vien; from Vien to Prag and from there to the concentration camp of Anniger Siliana were I remained for 2 months and from there they took me to work in the fortification work in the Cadore (Austrian front) were I stayed for a month and runned a way. At the Austrian retreat of October 1918 I turned in the Italian Army, I got ill; they took me to the Piacenza hospital then to the Milan hospital, from there I was

returned to my regiment. We departed from Turin where
the regiment was quartered for Bengasi in Libya there
we remained about a year then we returned in Italy,
and I was assigned to the 11th regiment artillery where
they I remained until I was dismissed; that was in 1920.
I returned to Pioraco and I remained till 1923 when
I decided to come to the U. S. A. I secured a passport
and I came to New York I worked there 6 months
and then came to California and exactly in San
Francisco. In 1925 I got married and now I
am father of four healthy children.

Biography of Mr. L. C. by Rizzoli

Mr. L. C. is 40 years of age divorced with two children. I was born in "Mollino del Pallone" province of Pistoia the year 1894. My father a cabinet maker my mother house wife for necessity due that the family was of 13. In my youth I went to the elementary school at 11 I started as apprentice black smith. At 14 I went to Pistoia and in spite of my skill I was not promoted working-man until 18. I worked for 3 years as blacksmith for the Pisaneschi general machine shop in Pistoia then I applied to the Locomotive repair shops of the state in Florence and I was accepted and I worked there until the world war over I had to enlist. They put me on the Arsenal of Spezia first where I learned to repair guns then they send me to Udine and to the front. I remained there until the Caporetto retreat then they send me to Tripoli I remained there about 8 month then they returned me to the front. After the armistice I was discharged. I could not find work; demoralized after 4 years of war with the help of my father I gathered the passage money and I came to New York. In New York I immediately found work I married and after 3 years I was father of 2 children. I had saved little money and I bought a small house. But while I was working my wife got in connection with a tramp they had love and I was compelled

to divorce. Disgusted I came to San Francisco leaving her the house and children. Here I am been working quite steady but last year or so I could find to work more than two or 3 days a week, and that is not quite enough for living because my wages was cut from \$8 a day to \$5⁵⁰ a day. I heard that the children are all rite in New York and are quite well taken care by their own mother.

M. Rizzoli.

Mr. L.C. is 40 years of age divorced with two children.

I was born in Mollino del Pallone province of Pistoria the year 1894. My father a cabinet maker, my mother housewife for necessity due that the family was of 12. In my youth I went to the elementary school at 11 I started as apprentice black smith. At 14 I went to Pistoria and in spite of my skill I was not promoted working man until 18, I worked for 3 years as blacksmith for the Pizanoschi general machine shop in Pistoria, then I applied to the locomotive repair shop of the state in Florence and I was accepted and I worked there until the world war where I had to enlist. They put me on the arsenal of Spezion first where I learned to repair guns, then they sent me to Idine and to the front. I remained there until the Corperetto reereat, then they sent me to Tripoli, I remained there about 8 months, then they returned me to the front. After the armistice I was discharged. I could not find work; demoralized after 4 years of war with the help of my father I gathered the passage money and I came to N.Y. In N.Y. I immediately found work, I married and after 3 years I was father of 2 children. I had saved money and I bought a small house. But while I was working my wife got in connection with a tramp, they made love, and I was compelled to divorce. Disgusted I came to S.F. leaving her the house and children. Here I have been working quite steady, but last year or so I could find work more than 2 or 3 days a week and that is not quite enough for living because my wifes was cut from \$8 a day to \$5.50 a day. I heard that the children are alright in N.Y. and are quite well taken care of by their mother.

— Italian — 1419

These two brothers are two very recent arrivals from the city of Naples.

They are two young men of the better class, and are very well educated.

One of them is an Architect, and the other is studying Electrical Engineering.

Evidently the reason of their ^{more} migrating to this country, was political. From what I could gather, their father had been arrested for his political activities, in opposition to the present regime, with no prospects for an immediate so called trial, which the sons claim will be a farce. They concluded that they being under suspicion, the best they could do was to emigrate.

They had intended to go to Brazil, but after finding out the class of Italians who were going to that country or had gone, mostly the laboring and farming class, they decided the United States was their hope.

Their home life in Naples, and a small country place, a few miles from that city, was all that could be desired, living well but associating with the best of society. But the fact that their

were not favorably disposed ^{towards} the present Fascist Government, made their situation decidedly uncomfortable.

Their mother had passed away some years ago and with no other near relatives, they disposed of everything they could, they applied for passports and strangely enough had no trouble in getting them, so convinced that present government would like to get rid of them.

After arriving in the United States, they stayed a short while in New York City, moving from there to Buffalo and from there to Chicago.

Went into the Commission business, with an Italian firm, having an interest in the business, but after two months, finding they had misplaced their confidence, and were filled with Black Sheet sympathizers they sold their interest back at a considerable loss, and came to California, landing in Los Angeles, and after a month of that city, which was a plenty, they came to San Francisco.

This travelling and their poor business success has made a large dent in their finances, and it became necessary for them to get employment

of some kind, and as they speak French fluently and English almost as well, it was that a short time before they were slaves, not in very lucrative positions, but with good prospects for advancement in the near future.

Conditions in Italy are in a bad condition, no matter what reports the Italian Government sends out to the contrary.

Wages are low, the people are a mass of ignorance and with the constant threat of war hanging over their head.

People in America do not realize how well off they are, even with this depression, the country seems to be passing through, but pass through it will.

They have been using what means they could to free their father, but so far everything has been futile. They fear they will never see him again. They had intended going back to their old home some future day, but now that desire has entirely vanished. They are perfectly satisfied here, and are going to become American citizens and forget Italy and the misdeeds of Mussolini.

Yours

422

Biography of Mr. X by Mathew Rizzoli

Mr. X has 40 year of age married 2 boys.
Was born in Solino province of Genoa in 1894 January 6
in my childhood I went to the elementary school at
the age of 16 I went to work as carpenter apprentice
in a cabinet maker shop in Genoa. I worked there
for 3 years and then I came to the U. S. otherwise would
have had to serve in the Italian army. I came to
New York looking for work but I could find none.
I came to Chicago and I found work as cabinet
maker this was 1914 I worked there two years then
I came to Los Angeles then I got married and
in 1915 came to San Francisco I worked for the
Royal Show Chase Co. until the break of the war
then I went to work in the Vallejo U. S. Ship Yard
got naturalized and the first boy was born. I
got exempted from the war because working in
the U. S. Ship Yard for the department of war;
I worked there until the end of the war then
got laid off. I came back to San Francisco and
I went to work for the Giusti carpenter shop. where
I still work part time. During the war I saved
some money and I bought a house in 1921.
I saved some more money and I was happy
believing that I had the security of bread for the

II

family, but I bought some stock and in the grand crash I was out in margin and I lost plus I had to mortgage the house. Now I work very little and I don't earn enough to feed the family, nor to pay taxes and the bank soon I believe will take my house. The boys are going to the hyschool one is 17-18 - the other is 15-16. The wife was first working in the Calif. Cannery Co. but now she is unemployed too.

analyzed
142

~~Rafaelo~~ B.
Italian, male 21 years
born in Berkeley

TP Prone to the wild life at an early age, ~~Rafaelo~~ has I. D.,
and it is unlikely that he will live long.

Adopts his Italian heritage strongly, and has changed his
name to ~~Rafael~~. Tries to be as American as possible.

IP Because of his disabilities, he spends his time at home, listen-
ing to the radio, or driving around in the car to see his friends.

P The depression hasn't affected him much, he says because it is
his ~~duty~~ to spend money, alone, and it is easy to do that.

P ~~Rafaelo~~ speaks good Italian. He also studied a little Spanish
in school and enjoyed it.

Italian, born in Rome; age fifty four. As a boy he worked at odd jobs. Coming from the lower class he got no schooling while young. He used to steal, with other boys of the street, from the fruit and vegetable carts that abounded the city's downtown traffic. Then he was conscripted into the Army when he was sixteen. Here he learned the discipline and arduous tasks of a soldier for king and country. He says it was all work and no pay. The pay per day amounted to a few cents; most of which was taken by the government for services to the soldiers which they never received. The rest was spent on women and in the numerous government canteens where wine of the cheapest sort was sold for twice the price in civilian wine shops. But army regulations did not allow a first time enlistment man out of the barrack ground. And any love affairs on the part of the recruits had to be done sub rosa. Caught out of the restricted area ~~and~~ the penalty was most severe sometimes another year of service being added on to the initial enlistment.

After five years ^{to} service, subject came into civilian life again. Everything was strange and new. He had no civilian friends and had no idea where his parents were. He searched for work but found it exceedingly hard to ~~seek~~ out a bare living. So, he turned to petty ~~the~~ livery. The tourists made it easy for him to make a soft living. Then the World War came. He hated the Army; had no patriotic

feelings toward Italy and therefore when he was conscripted the second time he escaped over to Switzerland. Here he easily passed as a native and he began seriously to try and make a living in some honest trade. He became an apprentice in the silversmith trade. He worked hard and long hours. He was shrewd and started a small shop two years after the War. Then he returned to Italy. Here he made application for entry into the United States. In 1925 he came over and took out citizenship papers. He took his citizenship oath in San Francisco and is now in the breadline every day as he says he can get ~~no~~ work and patriotic org^{an}izations have no use for foreign born.

Italian

Analyzed
1477
submitted by
H.C. Beckwith
Nov. 25th 1934

Bordering on France in Northern Italy is located the province of Piedmont. Here, in the village of Mondovi, Frank and his four brothers were born. The father was a cattle trader and prospered. All the brothers attended school, which was some distance from their home, the trail being a rough and tedious one, especially when there was snow.

It so happened that in nineteen hundred and ten, an uncle who was in the grape business in California, returned to Italy on a visit to his relatives. Relating to them the advantages and possibilities to be had here, Frank, enthusiastic, decided to return with him.

Twenty years of age when reaching San Francisco, he has been here now for twenty years. His first job was in a restaurant and he has continued in the same kind of work. Now, he is the father of two boys and has also acquired citizenship.

Seven years ago, Frank and his brother returned to Mondovi on a visit and reports that his parents are experiencing difficult times, due to excessive taxation. The brother, who stayed for an extended trip, is having difficulty in leaving, the Italian laws, being stricter now.

Italy 1905

Born in Italy 46 years ago. He did not remember how much schooling he had, which was apparently very little. Since coming to California he has worked almost all the time as a laborer at present he is doing very little as jobs are very scarce.

Since 1929 he has worked only occasionally.

His father was a small landowner.

He came to California to improve his condition.

✓
analyzed

7477

Italian

Born in Italy (16) years ago. He had no education there except for two years. He worked for his father for several years and at the age of (16) came to California, as he had friends who advised him to do so.

He entered into the ~~light business~~ and is still in the same. ~~He has no musical or mechanical ability.~~ He came to California to improve himself.

✓ Since 1929, his condition has been about the same. ✓

Italy
1487a
Finalized
Gisubert.

F.A. born in 1872 September 5, in Florence, Italy, province of Florence, city of about 250,000 inhabitants located in the central part of Italy, well known city the world over for its artistic sculptors, painters at one time. The capital city of Italy. Of well to do parents, father in established manufacturer of artistic furnitures, a family of 5, three boys, all of good education. F.A. after completing the normal civic school, attended for five years the Royal Academy of Arts in Florence, from where he graduated with distinction. After serving as apprentice, a junior craftsman, for 5 years in Rome, worked in several large studios mainly at figure work, models in plaster and completed some very remarkable works of art. In 1893 he was called to join the active army where he served 5 years in a regiment of Bersaglieri. When discharged from his active military service at the age of 26 he returned to his home in Florence, where he assisted in his father's workshop for a duration of the months, then toured in many large Italian cities, working occasionally to defray expenses as his father's allowance was very moderate. He did not agree very well with his father.

In 1905 F.A. and one of his many friends took passage in an Italian Steamer for the U.S. arriving in N.Y. City in November same year. He remained in this city for two months, but unable to obtain work at his profession, joined a mining crew to work as miner in a coal mine, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania he married there and shortly after became a citizen of the U.S. He worked at the mine a few years and in 1913 he came to S.F. where he obtained a good position as sculptor, making good money. In the year of 1915 he found a partnership with one of countrymen, also a sculptor and established themselves in the southern part of this city, S.F. obtaining considerable contracts and prospered moderately. For about eight years they worked in harmony and at times made considerable money at times. Suffering with rheumatism contracted while he worked in the mine, after following several supposed to be cures without favorable results he took a trip back to his native land, to consult a specialist

in Florence, Italy.

Remained there 3 months only to return to S.F. in worse condition. In 1925

about 10 years ago the use of his legs gave out entirely, funds were gone.

He was admitted at the Laguna Honda Home where he is still an inmate.

He purchased himself a wheelchair so as to be able to move about, walks at

times with crutches but then the swelling of the joints of his legs and feet

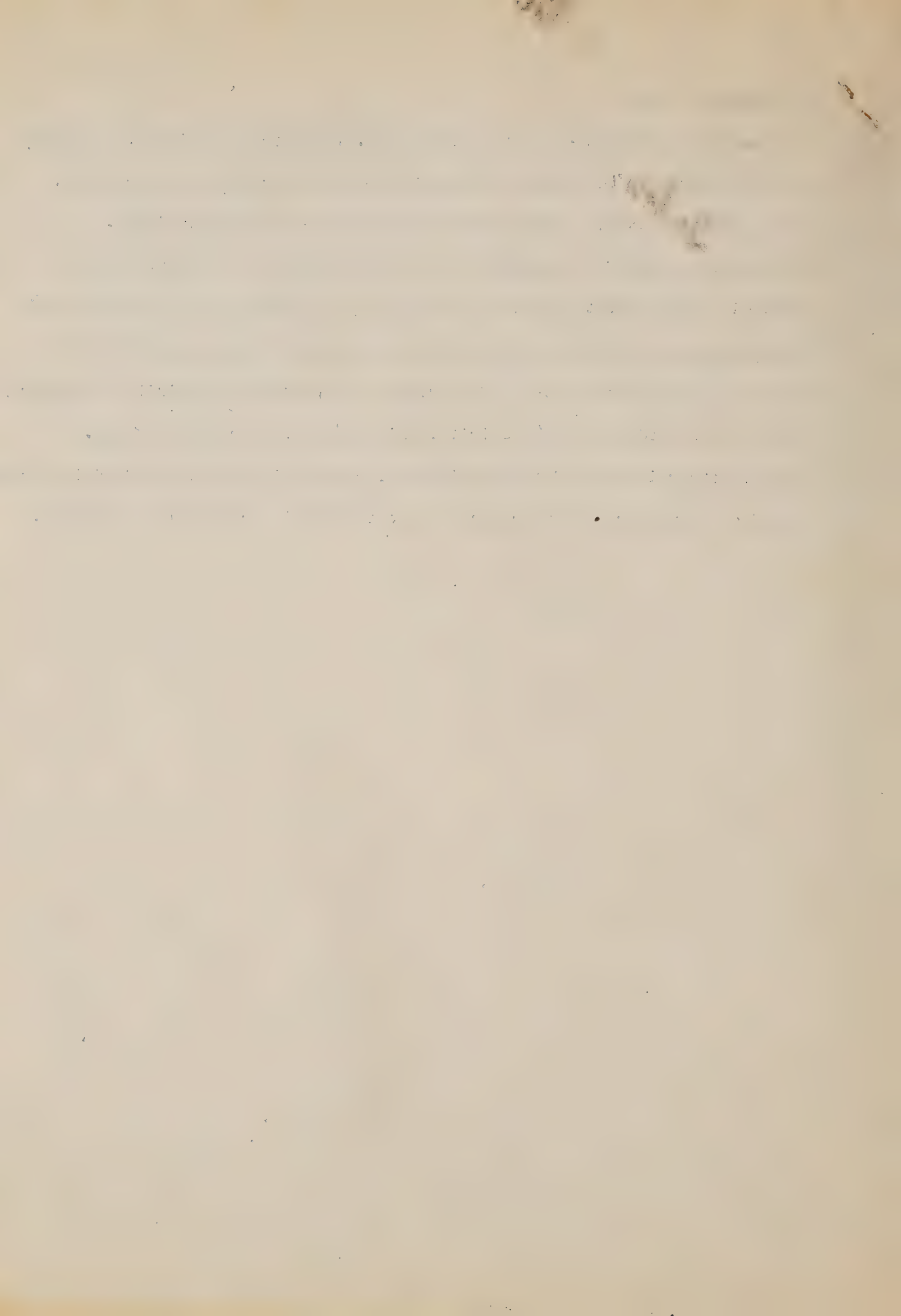
increase, also the pains. Has no children and since becoming an inmate his

wife died. Has a nephew and a few friends who occasionally visit him appears,

otherwise in good health and spirit looking much younger than his age.

Like all other inmates of this institution, complaining about how food is served,

good food being very badly prepared so as to make it practically uneatable.



Burg.

Italian

1470
ANALYZED

Born in 1907 at our farm located 20 miles from Venice, Italy.

There was 3 boys and one girl in our family we all worked on the farm as youngsters ranging from 5 years old and up. Our work was such as regular farming. My parents and their parents worked the same farm.

✓ We were taken when boys twice a year on holidays to Venice which was my most happiest time at home; We had a 19 room house where we all lived including our relations 35 people in all, I do not care to tell how we lived there but we managed to get along and had some good times."

✓ When I was 11 years old we were all put under guard by the Austrian police on account of war and could do nothing, just like prison.

✓ During this time we suffered very much and I don't want any more of that. In 1923 I came to this country where I have been ever since and am very glad to be here. I am going to get my citizen's papers and intend to stay here. I might go back for a visit some time I can get enough money, I am single and have been working in restaurants since I came here, I am not tending bar where I got a good job. Yes my parents are living so ^{now} is my brothers and sisters. I am strong, in good health and can do most any kind of work as I am used to it but I like my job better now."

✓

16th

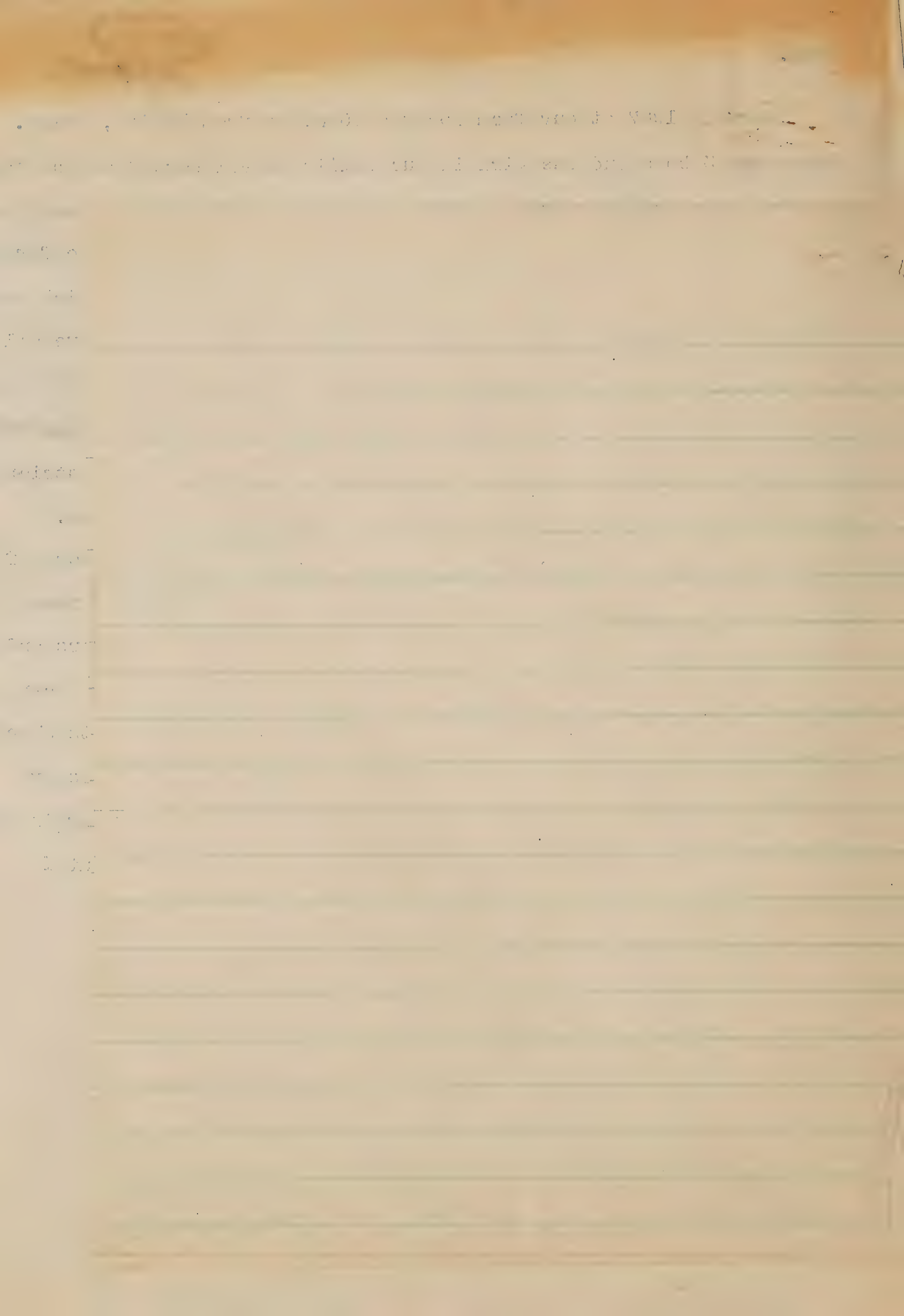
Pete Tranzhone is an Italian.
He is working for an advertisement Co "Passing bills".
He gets 2 cents an hour and the work is
not steady. He is of the most
common type of Italian: dark,
medium build, and intelligent.
He is a young man, about 25 years
old. He is a native of Italy.
He is a native of Italy.
He is a native of Italy.
He is a native of Italy.

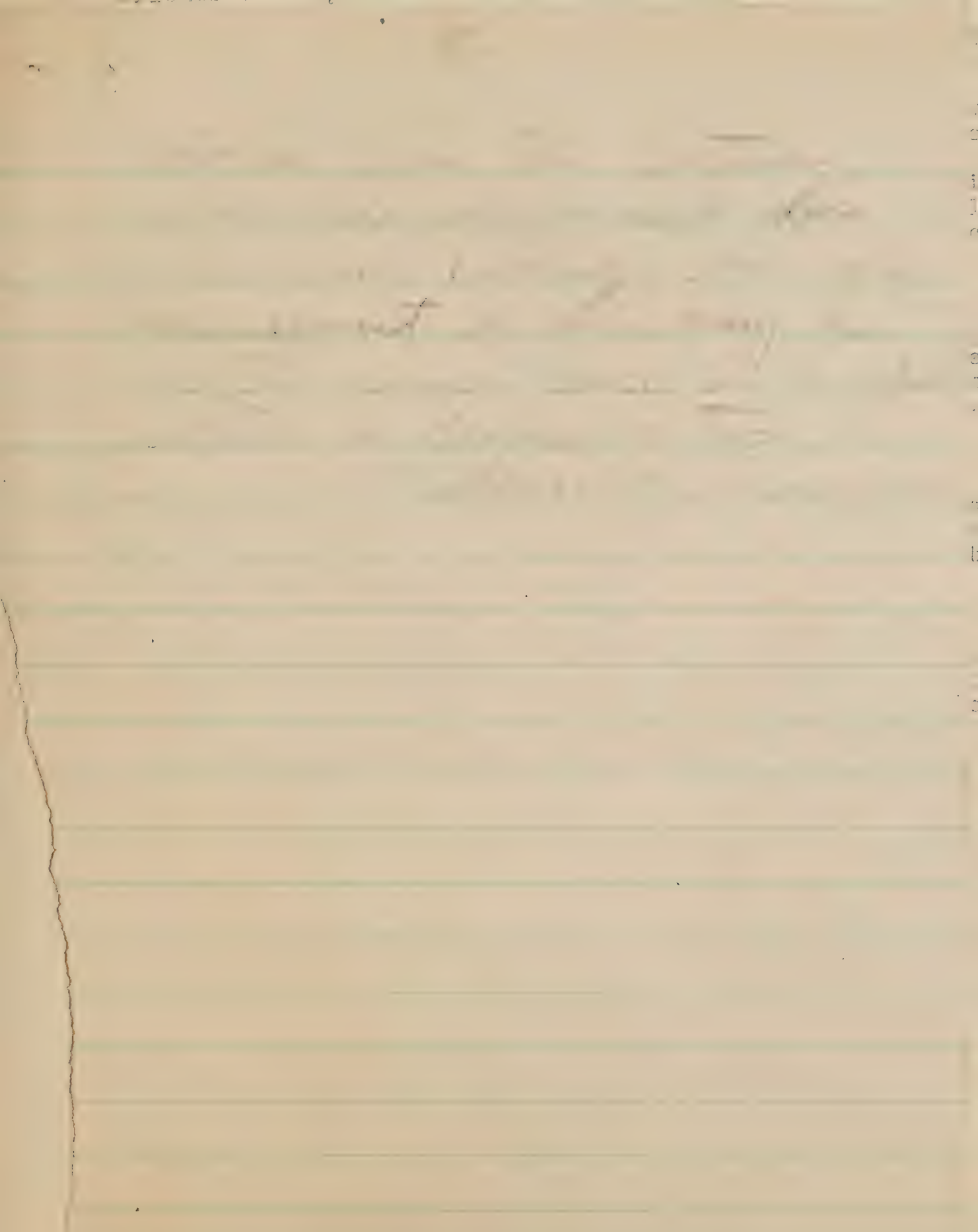
He was born a few miles
from Naples.
He is a native of Italy.
He is a native of Italy.
He is a native of Italy.

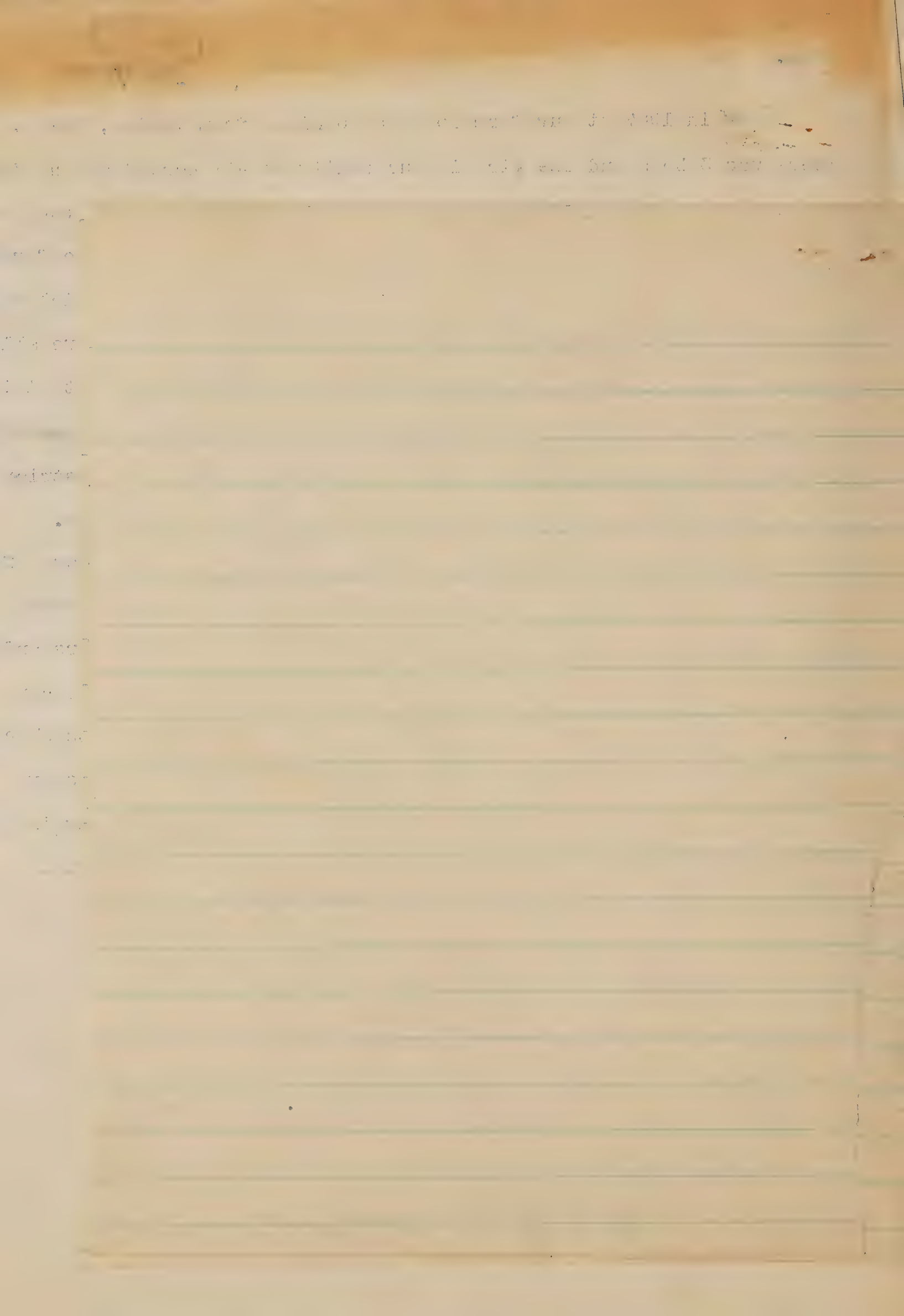
with an uncle when he was
seventeen years old. They
lived in his house until
he was twenty-one when he
went to work (iron
and steel etc) in the new
iron works of the
state.

His English was
learned in the English
to little and he went to
live in the iron works
in the state. He was
more against the iron works
in the state. He was
as the English. He was
in the state. He was
in the state.

He was in the state
in the state.







1677
Subject Italian

This man was born in northern Italy of parents of moderate circumstances. In 1907 when he was 14 years old his parents and he came to America arriving in New York. ~~Here they stayed for~~ less than a year, as his father was expected by relatives and friends to stay in San Francisco.

Arriving in San Francisco he went to public school, through high school at night, graduating from high school just a year and a half ago. He quit school when he was 15 years old for financial reasons, and worked in his father's fruit store where he was employed for about four years. However, due to the failing condition of the business at that time and family quarrels, he quit his father's employ and after much difficulty, ~~being out of work for about eight months~~ he finally got a job in a large retail department store as a receiving clerk, at which position he is now engaged.

The only prejudices he encountered were those usual petty prejudices manifested by the use of derogatory terms and ~~phrases~~ by the school children. ~~But~~ after he got out of school he encountered no prejudices whatsoever. Of course, he was thoroughly Americanized and versed in the ways of his adopted countrymen, which ~~fact~~ did much to account for this.

He has very few ~~recollections~~ ^{memories} of Italy, although as usual, those ~~memories~~ he has retained are pleasantly colored because they are of the place of his birth and childhood. He said he would like to go back to Italy for a trip, but is undecided whether he would enjoy living there or not.

The depression affected him to the extent that he was out of a job for about eight months after leaving his father's employment and to the extent that his father's business became poor and resulted in the loss of financial aid from that source.

However, he had no property before the depression or any other financial interests of any kind to lose.

1631

Case No. 10.

G. is a young man of twenty-three, one of a large family of Milanese. He was born in Italy but has no recollection of life there ~~or~~ his journey to America as he came here at the age of six. There are ten in the family, seven boys and three ~~girls~~ ^{girls}. G's parents worked in a bakery in Milan where they saved enough to come to New York and launch a small bakery enterprise of their own. In 1928 two of G's older brothers and an older sister came with him to San Francisco where they established their own business.

G. helps a little with the baking, his main task is driving the bread truck. He is still unmarried and lives with the "clan."

His older brothers and sister are all married, all live together, and all but one of the "in-laws" are in the business. The shop specialized in Italian and French bread and rolls but also bakes pastries. The business is not going according to plan and if it gets much worse they will have to give it up. His parents in New York have retired. G. received only a high school education but has taken eleven years of instruction on the violin. He has played it several times at recitals given by his instructors and has ambitious hopes to make a career for himself as a musician.

Everyone in the family plays some instrument.

G. makes enough money for his violin lessons and a little more by playing several evenings a week with an Italian dance orchestra.

He expressed distaste for piano music however, and doesn't get any enjoyment out of this night work.

1632 Analyzed.

A.G.

A.G. is an American-born woman of Genoese parentage, age twenty-six. Her parents were married in Genoa, where her father was a carpenter. A. G.'s older brother, now clerking in a department store in Los Angeles, was born in Genoa.

When A. G.'s father first came over to this country, he worked at a vegetable stand, owned by his brother in San Francisco. He soon left this work in order to labor as a house carpenter and painter. He is now irregularly employed by an Oakland painting and wall-papering firm.

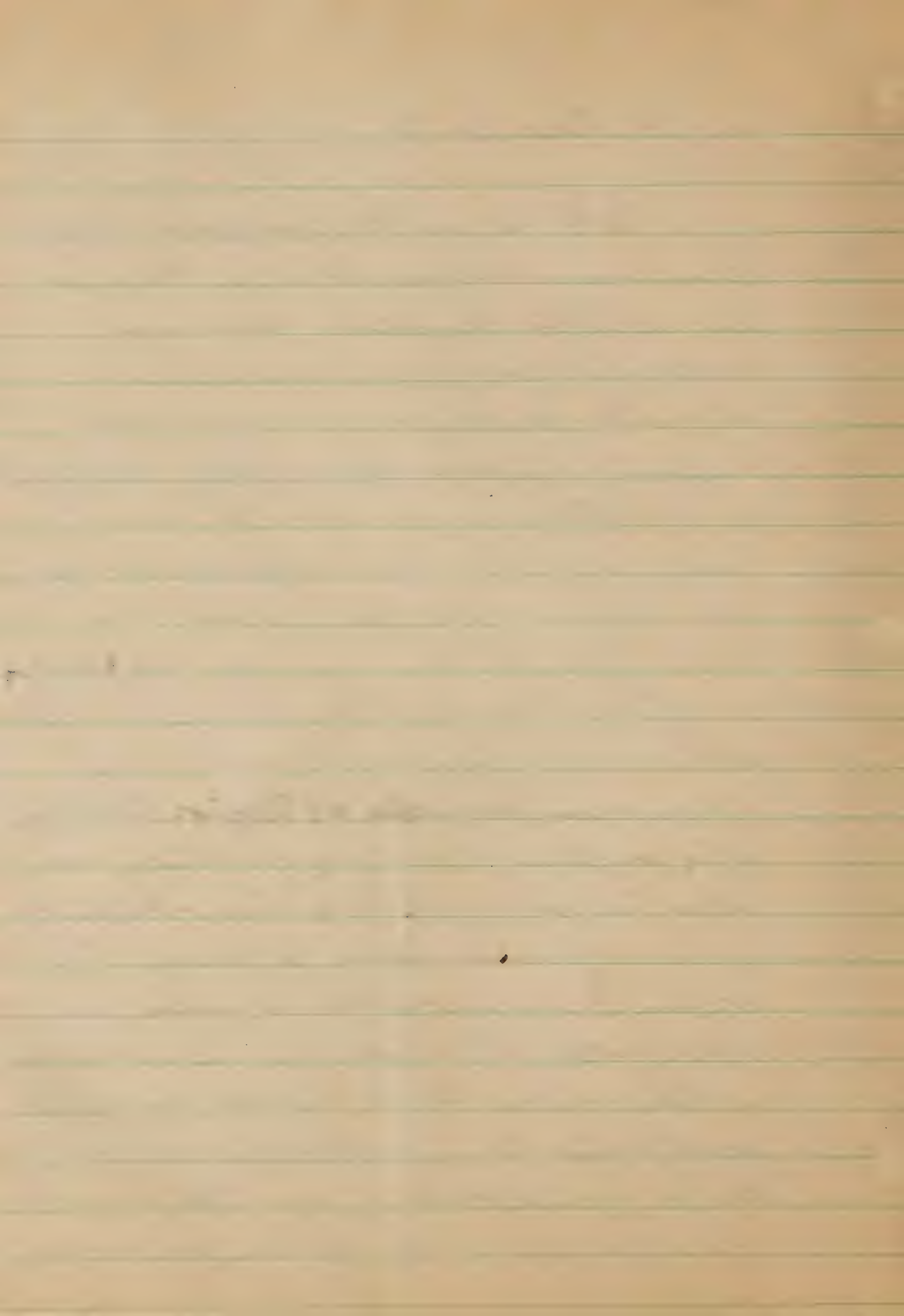
A. G. graduated from Galileo High School in 1925. She did not expect to be able to attend college, so she took a commercial course at school. Since leaving school, she has worked as a waitress, a five-and-ten clerk and is now employed at the Heinz plant.

She was married last year to James (German descent), who is now a carpenter and painter and German. The couple live with A. G.'s parents, supporting the latter in exchange for lodging. A. G.'s father owns his home.



1071
Case. A. G.

A. G. is an Italian-born San Franciscan. He was born in Parma in 1890. His occupation there was that of a poorly-paid agricultural laborer. He displayed a mechanical ingenuity, however, that slowly established a reputation for him in the small farm community as a repairman. As will be seen his experience in this capacity served him in good stead when he came to America. He served in the Italian army for several years; was stationed in barracks at Reggio. Shortly after completing his period of military service he journeyed to America. He had just sufficient money to bring him to San Francisco where he joined an older brother. For sometime he worked as a dish-washer. When he had learned to speak English he was able to find a job in the California Packing Corporation's machine shop. He has remained there ever since.



but successive promotions have advanced him to a very good position as foreman of a division of mechanics. He was married nine years ago to an Italian girl. Three years ago he received his final citizenship papers. During the last three years he has been forced to accept lower wages and a reduced working schedule. This has caused him much inconvenience in meeting payments on a home purchased on the installment plan.

Case J. B.

J. B. was born in Venice in 1901. His parents were very, very poor and life was hard on his father's little farm where he worked until seventeen years old. There are, in J. B.'s case, additions to the usual motives of adventure and fate--making which led him to quit his homeland. He felt an acute resentment against the ruling gentry to whom he had to pay homage. He relates that when he met one of the nobles he had to doff his hat and bow to the earth. He had to figure in some gaudy when teased or puny. This and the like was beyond his endurance, so, at the end of the war he came to this country. With little money he proceeded directly from New York to Oregon where friends had arranged him employment in a lumber camp. He worked there seven years "piling green lumber". At the end of that time he came to San Francisco, where, with his meagre savings he opened a station.

restaurant in partnership with two others.
His business fortunes has since been most
favorable and he now has but one partner
in a larger restaurant. He has been married
since the age of twenty years, has a child
- a girl - of three.

Case. L. R.

L. R. was born in Astoria in 1871. His parents were poor farm folk. When the war broke out he joined the Union army. In his first battle he was captured by the Austrians. He was held in an Austrian prison for more than two years. Upon leaving the army service he was paid a small sum which helped to finance his trip to America. The first came to Boston and soon found work on "railroad gang" (C.R. worked again). At this he worked long in Pennsylvania - for the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. Co. After several years careful saving enabled him to come to San Francisco where he had close friends. The latter assisted him to earn his way through a barber college in S. F. After leaving college and completing a course of study of English at night school, he obtained a position at a North Beach barber shop. In 1928 he opened his own shop which he still operates. He did not marry until 1931, - a fellow - Astorian - Piedmontese.

I was born in the Province of
 Calabria in a small town.
 My father owned a small
 fishing ship. and as I was the
 eldest of eight children I
 worked and helped him.

At the age of twenty I
 married and left my father's
 house. We went to a place
 called Bardonecchia on the
 border between France and
 Italy and to be near to
 a small hotel. I made an
 amount enough by exchanging
 money for travelers, from Italy
 to France. When they
 returned would change it
 back to come to America.
 After ten years we came
 to America landing in
 New York. There I soon got
 a job as cook and lived
 in New York for seven years.

Leaving New York. I came to
Los Angeles. and there I worked
for the big hotels for 20 years

By this time our two
children had married and
lived in Sacramento so we
moved there too

my wife and I worked
in the cannery then we all
moved to San Leandro where
I have a small home

Our health is bad and
we don't work no more but we
own our home and we have
a good boy. He gives us money
each week so we don't have to
worry. I am glad to be in
America

Cesar Rojas.

Mr. Padin

—

Thomas Baret

1697

Joe Celli who came to America from Italy thirty years ago now owns a little bootblack stand on Lagin Street. Up to 1929 Celli was a prosperous stockbroker with some \$14,000 in the bank. Hard work and perseverance had won him a substantial income in the business world of San Francisco. But in 1929 everything Celli owned was wiped out by bad investments and finally, after a year of doing all kinds of labor to support himself and his wife, he was forced to appeal to the charities. It was through a visitor of the Association Celli finally got a job on the bootblack stand he now owns. That was in 1931. Celli's recollections of the depression and all that pertains to it are interesting.

"When I lost all my money and even my store," says Celli, "by some bad stock

investments I didn't know what to do. I was fifty five years old and broke. Everything I had worked for and saved over all the years since I came to this country - went "poof" just like that. I don't know now how I lose all my money so fast. One day a man comes to me and tells me the company I own stock in has merged with another company or something. I get new stock and try to sell it and can't - no one wants it. I go to an attorney and he tells me I am frozen out. He says he will do something but he never does. I owed a big bill for merchandise. I could not pay. I was forced to close up. I was broke.

Yan know I saw in the paper afterward where the Big Man of the Company I bought stock in said he warned to people not to gamble in his stock. But he didn't take out a big page advertisement in the paper and say "Don't buy my stock! Don't buy my stock!" Yan is damn right he didn't. After we all lose our money he says "I warned you!" That helped us a lot!"

"Well I didn't know what to do." I got a few jobs here and there and managed to keep my wife and I fed. Finally I had to go to the charities. It was terrible. I had a bad time with them because they thought I must have some money left but finally they gave me a box of groceries. This was bad. I used to shake every time I saw that big wagon come up to the door. It made my wife sick and she told the visitor she wouldn't stand it any longer. The visitor was a very nice lady and she was always trying to find me a job. I would do anything. Finally she got me a job in the bootblack stand. The owner was an old man and sick. He could only work part of the time. He gave me half what I took in which was anywhere from seven to fourteen dollars a week. It wasn't much but we lived on it.

If you know in a bootblack stand after people get to know you they talk a lot. You'd be surprised how many people I know just by sight who are not on relief but living on money loaned them by somebody else.

I'll bet that half of the people who are broke in this country and out of work will never be known. Not as long as whoever gives them money holds out. I didn't have anybody I could get money from so it was only one thing to do. If it wasn't for that big truck driving up to your door with a box of groceries it wouldn't have been so bad. But that made you feel "down".

Well in 1933 the old man who owned this stand wanted to sell out but I didn't have enough money to buy. I tried to borrow but I couldn't rake up a cent. It was the same everywhere. People told me they didn't have \$300 to spare and that was that. I've got a lot of friends but when I went broke I used to pass them up - perhaps that had something to do with it. Finally I paid the old man a hundred dollars down and the rest in installments. You might think that 300 is a big wad of money for such a little stand but this place

My dear Mr. [illegible]
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am
very much interested in the
progress of the [illegible] and
hope to hear from you again soon.
Yours truly,
[illegible]

It will be some time before I can
reply to you. I am very busy at
present. I hope to be able to
do so in a few days. I am
very much interested in the
progress of the [illegible] and
hope to hear from you again soon.
Yours truly,
[illegible]

Has been here for thirty years - and has steady customers. I make about \$18 a week now which is enough to support us. And I'm more contented than when I had money in the bank and a lot of worries. I guess I'm getting old.

I know I've been lucky. When I look at the tough times other people have had the year and a half I was down doesn't amount to anything. As it is I don't think the depression is over by a long shot - but I don't think it will ever be as bad as it was. Not for poor people at least - as long as the government remembers there are poor people and they have to eat. That was what made things so bad back in 1930. People were broke and hungry and all they were fed on were words - words - words. But it's different now - so I say it will never be as bad as it was!"

1892

Theodore Grey

Report: Italian

I was born under the blue sky of Italy.
My father worked for a big wine merchant and
kept his vineyards in order. I helped him as
often as I could. as we attended school
regularly. I have 3 sisters and 4 brothers
and they are here and are in the east.

I don't remember much about any other
part for we never went visiting other places
in Italy. Candebio is a small place in
northern Italia and all surrounded by vineyards.
We have every Sunday morning music and every
Saturday evening dances where every body enjoy
in the streets and square the dancing. Certainly
we did not keep late hours like here. and things
are not so crowded.

Well, when days of packing did come for
USA to join Joe in New York I felt sad as
I would not go without my brother Leo. You
see he is with me here too. In New York
we have been with Joe and worked hard and

over

having once one argument too often we
made our minds up to part for the farthest
away from Joe and came to San Francisco.

Well, we feel O.K. here and I am glad we
are here. We both are married and we are working
hard every day. My brother has the boys and
the girls belong to us. They go to catholic school.

Well, if my children are grown up, we like
to visit our folks, for that time to come we wait
and see.

Subject: Maria L.

Nationality: Italian

Age: 53 years, born 1881

Condition: married, not-working

Status: wife of laborer

History:

Maria was born of very poor parents living just outside of Turin, in Italy; not a separate village but in the scraggling houses just without the town limits.

Her father was a garden laborer and worked in the truck-gardens near-by that supplied the city of Turin (or Torino). Her mother was the daughter of a dairy owner, who lived in the city; a very small business selling goat milk and other dairy products.

She had two brothers and a sister, all older than herself. From the earliest days, she remembers that they all worked in the fields, doing some sort of work appropriate to their physical condition. She remembers doing light chores and as she grew up, doing field work. They were very poor but not worse off than their neighbors around them.

She remembers her father's death, an uncle coming to run the household, he being unmarried. Her brothers were quite young at this time. When she was about fifteen she was sent into a Turin silk factory and made ribbons, etc. with other women. She lived with strangers during this period, many of them rooming together. She visited her family on Sundays and holidays.

When she was twenty, in 1901, she married a young man connected with the factory and they lived in a small house in town. One of her brothers entered the army at this time, one brother continued working as a laborer and gardiner and her sister married and moved to a southern city. When she came to this country she lost track of them, her mother dying before this. (She evidently wrote to them for some time, but was indefinite as to their ultimate positions, activities, fates.)

She had two children, boy and girl, the little girl dying at an early age. The boy was born in 1903.

Her husband came to this country with her and son to live with some friends in the east in New York City, where they worked for some time. (Apparently quite a party came over with them.) This was in 1906. A few years later (dates are uncertain, but came to Sacramento then to San Francisco, where they have lived ever since.

Her husband is not living, but her son is working in a San Francisco store and helps support his mother. She worked at various jobs after her husband's death and now lives

with friends. She does not work now but does housework.

became a citizen, as did her husband and son, who were born here.

Former status: A. was the daughter of a common laborer and lived in the lowest and poorest section of that society. She remembers their difficult lives, their poverty and their lack of comforts. From the earliest they had to work hard, all the children, but it did not seem to help them.

When she married she continued to work until they had children. She was much better off in town, but lived with persons and families of her own lower-class position. She was much better off than her family due to her factory wages.

Present status: In this country they were hard-up for some time but on coming to San Francisco lived quite comfortably. Her husband had various jobs in stores (she was not definite as to his work) and they lived with friends. Her son started working at an early age and supported himself. When her husband died she worked until friends took her in.

She lives very comfortably now in a middle-class group and level.

Education: Had practically no education as a child but when moved to town and married, learned to read and write fairly well, due to meeting husbands educated friends.

In this country learned English fairly well - speaks quite clearly but due to poor eyes cannot write it well or read it easily. Can make out newspaper accounts but does little reading.

Attitudes: She regards this country as a promised land on earth, is very happy here and has no desire to return to Italy at all. She does not write to her relatives there. She is very happy here with her friends and is thankful to be relieved of the continual work of her youth and early married life.

She is very religious and goes to many services. Her family was devout also.

The depression has not affected her, living with friends, but she has seen its effects among unemployed friends. She has no ideas about it, but vaguely feels that it is 'wrong'. She does not complain, but in general she feels that life in this country outweighs the distresses of a depression.

Biography of Mr. C. P. by Mathew Rizzoli

Mr. C. P. is 40 years of age divorced with 2 childrens. I was born in Olgia province of Novara (Piedmont) north Italy. In my youth the year 1894 my father was a stone cutter and was always migrating into Switzerland.

In my youth I frequented the elementary school but I never could learn more then to write and read because the teacher was the catholic priest and his main teaching was religion and to serve masses. In spite of that pretty near all the scholars of that timime are atheist and if not at least they deserted the catholic church. ~~At~~ At the age of 14 my mother send me to the alps in the neighboring mountain to help wash the grazing cows. For 3 soommer I did that, but then my ather compelled me to go to work with him as helper. I liked that; we went to Lausanne in Switzerland, but in the mean time one uncle of mine that was near San Louis Obispo (by name Guerra) wrote to my mother to send me here that he would send me the passage money and he was assuring hear that I could work as much as I am pleased in his ranch. That year we came home on the beginning of

Typed
Italian *Reel*
Theresa Ferrano

Theresa was born and is
Born in Sicily. Is about thirty-five years old now. She came to America with her parents when she was about eight years old. She was the oldest in a family of five ~~four~~ girls and one boy. Her father first settled in Bisbee, Arizona where he worked in the mine and the mother took in washing and did other odd jobs. In time, the care of her children and the outside work proved too much for her. She became ill. There was no money for the rest, the doctor ordered. She dragged herself around as best she could until finally they found her dead one afternoon.

After the mother's death, the father took to drinking and gambling. In about a year, he was taken in hand by a countrywoman of his, to whom he owed gambling debts. She was a shrewd business woman, and was making good money, running a boarding house for the miners and enticing them with diversions of the flesh.

He became so dependent on her that he married her although she was about ~~10~~ 10 years his senior. This created considerable gossip in the Italian colony there. ~~But~~ they decided to move to California, ~~but~~ they had relatives in Adair County. They settled in Jackson and opened a boarding house again.

Theresa was about 14 years old then. The step-mother paid no attention to the children. They were unkept, barbarous, running the streets coming home at all hours, seeing everything that a mining camp town contains, good and bad. Most of the men were unmarried foreigners who knew little English and who were unaccustomed to American life and customs. They ~~were~~ no women of their own age and nationality here. Some of them sent for picture brides to the old country. They were all women-hungry.

It isn't difficult to see how this child of 14 became involved with a man. He was arrested and eventually sentenced to five years in the state penitentiary. The investigating authorities thought it best that Theresa be removed from this environment and so she was sent to a school for wayward girls in San Francisco.

The case created a great deal of scandal at the time. Theresa herself didn't know what it was all about. In a romantic mood she vowed to wait for the prisoner and marry him when he had served his sentence. Meanwhile she went to school, and after being released obtained a job as a private secretary. She had her own income, dressed well, and since she didn't see old friends, almost forgot the past.

At the end of five years, when she was almost twenty, the man came out of prison. He seemed a total stranger. His hair had greyed and his face was hard and furrowed. He thanked her for her letters sent while in prison and the sentiments expressed. He thought it foolish that she should sacrifice her life and marry him.

She was very happy at being released and went back to Jackson to take care of her sisters. In about two years she fell in love with an Italian, (foreign born) who knew her past history but who was willing to forget it. They were married. Knowing that lung infection eventually overtakes all miners in the mother lode she urged him to move away.

Through friends he got a job in an ice cream plant in Oakland and they settled here.

The husband proved both unwilling and incapable of forgetting the past. ~~Being a~~ generous, understanding man, heretofore, he allowed her one sin to become an obsession with him. The harder he tried to forget, the more horrible ~~the~~ seemed. All of his friends knew about his wife. That hurt him. He became insanely jealous. He expected her to repeat history at any moment. Three sons were born to them. He began to make sly remarks expressing wonder as to whether they were really his. The change in him was unbelievable. To his wife he no longer seems the man she married.

About two years ago he lost his ice cream job. They lived on their savings until they gave out. They live in cramped, bare quarters now and are on S.E.R.A. relief. The children are ragged but healthy. She has grown very fat and has lost all ~~rust~~ for life. There is quite apparently no fight left. She cannot understand what she has done to deserve such a dirty deal from life--poverty, suspicion, jealousy, whippings. A once proud spirit has bit the dust.

Di. 10. 18. 18. 18.

Giovanni *Italian*

Mr. Giovanni T. was born in Naples about 50 years ago, the eldest son of a schoolteacher. The latter, a very religious man, intended to make a priest of his son, but the loss of his position (brought about, the son believes, by a political conflict with the authorities; details unknown) resulted in the apprenticeship of Giovanni to a boat-operator who engaged in trade along the Italian coast. The work was hard and unpleasant; his master drove him night and day, and before the end of a year, Giovanni deserted his post in Genoa. He was fifteen years old at this time. In answer to his prayer (of this he is absolutely convinced) he got a job within a month as deckhand on a ship that made regular trips from Genoa to Marseilles. He stayed on this boat for eight years, at the end of which time he had risen to the position of first mate. He was perfectly satisfied with his work and would have stayed on board that ship to this day had not a piece of bad luck come across his path. A mysterious illness, a sort of fever, forced him to leave his job in Marseille. It took him a year to get over the effects of his unknown disease. Being penniless, he had to take the first sea-going job (the only kind of work he knew) that came along; he signed up as an ordinary seaman on a French steamer that specialized in carrying steerage passengers to America. This job dissatisfied him greatly, especially since there seemed to be no chance for advancement. In Philadelphia he met an Italian store-keeper who assured him that America was a fine land, well worth the investigation of a young man. Several trips later Giovanni acted upon the suggestion. Following the advice of this storekeeper, Giovanni invested all of his savings (amounting to less than one hundred dollars) in a fruit and vegetable stand in Camden, New Jersey, which is right across the river from Philadelphia. He married one of the daughters of the Italian storekeeper, and in the course of five years became well-to-do. He opened one stand after another in Camden and Philadelphia.

At this point the informant became very vague as to details, jumping abruptly from these eastern cities to a large ranch in the San Joaquin Valley. He sold out all of his interests in these profitable fruit stands and invested in some rich vineyards near Lodi. His wife and three daughters accompanied him. When questioned for particulars regarding the move, the informant would shrug his shoulders, wave an arm about, and reply vaguely that the fruit stand business was no good; or else he would say that some friends in California had advised him to come. The informant's wife, when asked, said simply that he didn't like the east. The children knew nothing, *for they* were too young at the time to remember the event at all.

The move turned out to be most *unprofitable*. Giovanni knew nothing of farm life and went into partnership with a Mr. S. who took an unnecessarily large share of the crops. The demand for grapes, their only crop, went down so sharply when Prohibition was voted in that Mr. T. became alarmed and sold out hurriedly to Mr. S. made some valuable connections with an organization of bootleggers and amassed a small fortune.

Moving with his family (increased by one boy born on the farm), to San Francisco, Mr. T. tried for some time to get a job on a boat but had no success. He decided to try the restaurant business and bought a small establishment. This marked an upward turn to his fortune. The ensuing seven years were good ones. He made money in stocks and property (two apartment houses). He enlarged his restaurant considerably, borrowing a lot of money for this purpose. Then trade fell off sharply. His stocks went down in value. He lost the two apartment houses. He worked hard, his wife acted as cook, but the income could not meet the payments he had to make on his ~~loans~~. He lost the restaurant.

He made no attempt to reopen a new business with the few hundred dollars that he salvaged from the wreckage. He invested all he could spare with the United States Home and Loan Bank and accep-

ted a job which he got with the assistance of a friend. The work was that of a waiter. He stuck at it for six months and then quit. His next job was in a warehouse where he acted as a checker. Just after he got this job, the bank where he kept his money, went into ~~liquidation~~; and since that time has recovered only a small portion of his investment through the liquidation proceedings on the bank. After working for a year as a checker, he was let out. Since then he has had no regular employment.

The two oldest girls are married but can contribute nothing to his support, one couple being themselves dependent on charity work. Mr. T. worked on C.W. A. projects and is at present working on an S.E.R.A. project, doing pick and shovel work.

Mr. T. is not very pleased with his conditions, feeling that he has been the victim of undeserved misfortune. It is his opinion that the banking laws need drastic revising, making it impossible for banks either to foreclose on mortgages or to go bankrupt. The promises of President Roosevelt to reform the banking laws are exactly the remedy for the depression, and Mr. T. is confident that when they are carried out, business will revive immediately to such an extent that before very long Mr. T. himself will be in business again and exercising those talents which are ~~not~~ so deplorably suppressed.

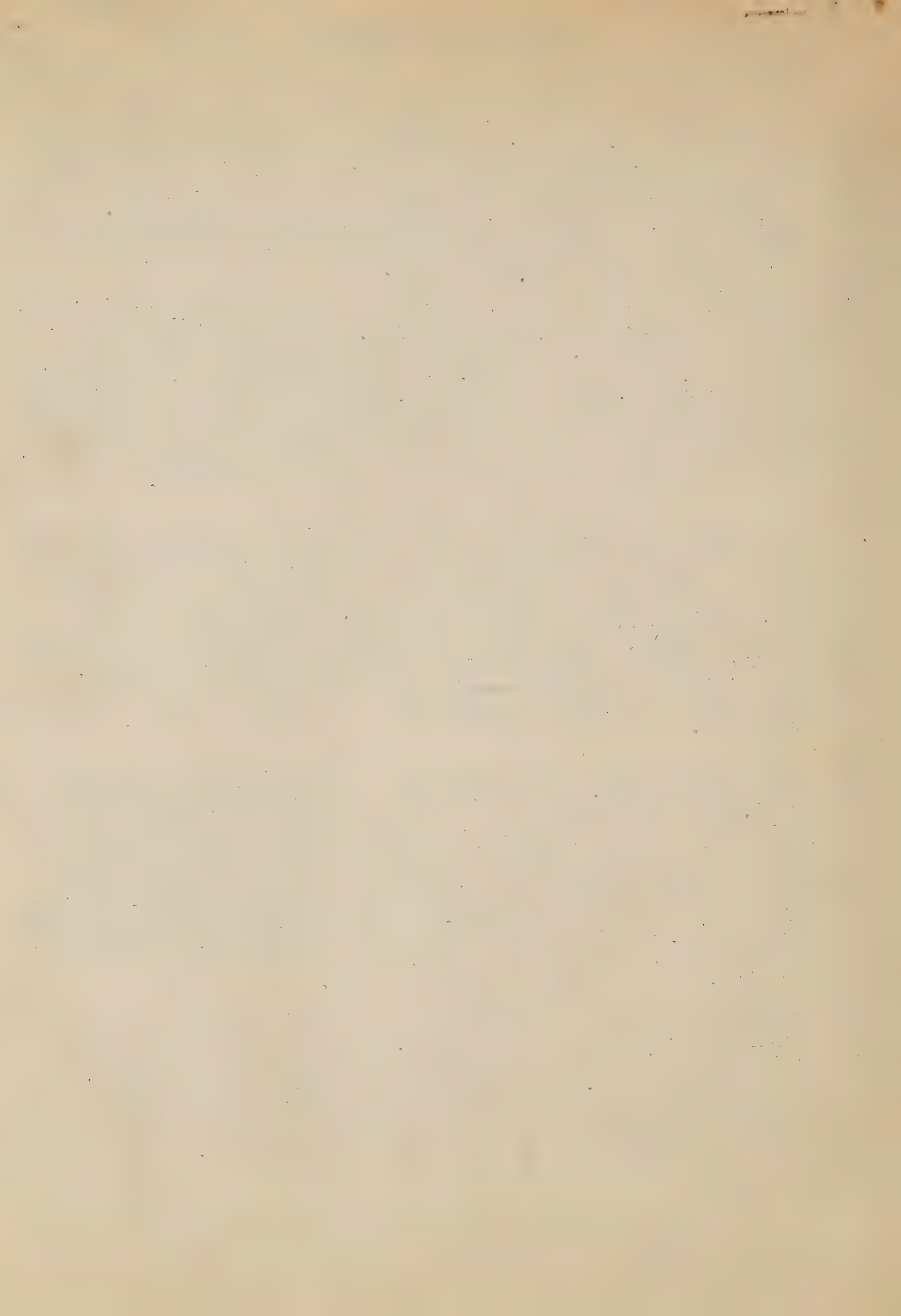
Rena
Born in the Province of Milan, of peasant stock, the eldest sister of a family of eight. Her parents were tenant farmers living about six miles from the suburbs of Milan. They were allowed their small farm with the necessary buildings; furnished seed for planting; food to carry the family through until harvest and a small amount of stock in return for which, the landlord received half of the harvest and any increase in stock. After this share was paid the landlord and he had received his payment for the years financing, there was little left for the family to live on until another harvest.

H
The little farm was used mainly as a truck garden, little being grown except for food and clothing. Clothing was obtained chiefly from hemp, the fibres of which were used for the manufacture of linen for cloth, for the entire family. This process was a costly one for the farmer, because of the labor required and because he was required to give to his landlord, half the finished thread ready for weaving. The mills then would take their portion in payment for weaving, leaving the farmer a scanty bit of cloth with which to clothe his family.

H
All farm work was done by hand and each child, as soon as they had finished the required three years of schooling, were put into the fields to work from sun up to sunset. The farm was worked by the mother and children; the father, walking to and from Milan each day, working in the silk mills for a few francs each week in order to be able to buy the few necessities required by his family. Any stock or surplus food to be sold was taken to the fairs or markets held in various neighboring towns, as the immediate neighborhood of tenant farmers and could not buy from each other; all lacking money with which to make a purchase for cash.

H
This lack of money made luxuries of any articles, while the few necessities, such as; leather shoes, felt hats, and meat for food. The black shoes of men and women were fashioned of good soles with rawhide strips to tie around the ankles and across the toes. If they were fortunate and owned a pair of leather shoes, they were only worn on special occasions and then the owner would probably walk barefoot to his destination, donning his shoes at the last moment. Fresh meat was a luxury obtained but rarely, usually on feast days and at an exorbitant price. The principal dish at most meals was a sort of vegetable soup or stew, black chestnut bread and wine.

Rena
After becoming a farm laborer at ten years of age and continued until she was sixteen, when her help was no longer needed and she accompanied her father to Milan to obtain work in the silk mills. She worked at the loom for over two years, walking the distance morning and night from farm to factory and return. For this labor she received, approximately, thirty cents per day, which went into the family bank account.



One Italian Immigrant

During this two years she received ^{several letters} word from her God-parents, who had immigrated to America. Correspondence was carried on through a mutual friend, and the God-parents urged her to come to the United States. Being a girl, it was necessary that she should have a fiance in America, ready to marry her and to finance her passage. Through the God-parents and the friend, a single Italian man was found in America who desired an Italian wife; and after an exchange of photographs, passage money was sent her. Arriving in San Francisco, she immediately married her benefactor, an Italian laborer, whom she had never seen before.

This marriage was consummated in 1914 and four children have been born of the union. The husband has been a good provider and has the respect, if not the love, of his wife. She, although disappointed in the personal appearance of the benefactor, married him to fulfill her obligations and has been a faithful wife. The children, of course, being American born are American educated. Two are graduates of high school and working, two are still attending school. Both parents, in the last ten years, have been attending night school, attempting to learn the English language and American ways. At first, the couple held to their old form of living; Italian was the tongue spoken in the home. Italian dishes of the cheapest variety were served at the table and any form of amusement as practiced by their American neighbors was not indulged in. *schools*

Gradually, through the children and social welfare workers, they realized that they were not advancing but were rather trying to go backward. They were induced to attend evening school; were shown that their children were undereducated and improperly clothed; that they were making their livelihood in America and should become American citizens.

Today they speak the English language in the home, serve American dishes at the table and in abundance, dress the family as the average American is dressed and are strong in their praise of the American government.

This man is a native of the city of Naples
emigrating to this country shortly after the
close of the World War.

He entered the war as a private in an infantry
regiment, at the age of seventeen, and emerged
as a sergeant.

His father had been a contractor on Italian
fronts during the war, doing a lucrative business,
and he had been able to acquire a fair education,
as his father had placed him in a private
academy, his companions being mostly
children of the well to do.

His father and one brother, having been conscripted
into the army, he had been compelled to return
home and take care of his mother.

It was not long before he also was conscripted
and forced to go to the front.

His father and brother were both killed by the
Austrians at the battle of the Piave and his
mother died shortly after of grief.

He himself had been wounded twice, and slightly
gassed, but it will always remain a marvel
how anyone survived the horror of those years in
the trenches.

Now, as no further news came from him, he was

At the close of the war on being mustered out of the service he returned to Naples, and resumed what he could from their former small fortune. After everything had been settled up, he found himself the possessor of a few hundred dollars, and having decided the best thing for him to do was to fight fastness new as all of his relatives had passed on and there was nothing to hold further in Italy.

He decided that far off California was the place to come to, and having parted with some of his capital as a ticket, he managed to get passage, took sterner second class and after a very stormy voyage reached New York. Passed the Immigration authorities all right, stayed in New York City a month, then took the train for California, arriving safely, and has been here ever since.

Marrried an Irish woman, after being here three years, in which time he had studied hard to master the English language, and is proud of the fact that he has really done so well. Had been married to a Judge of the lower Courts, as he himself told me, raised a Catholic,

and his wife having been raised on the Protestant
Faith, was the only course they could pursue.
They have now several children, two boys and
two girls to be exact, and having been steadily
employed, has been able to buy a fine reform
house on the Sunset boulevard on the installment
plan, and the future to him, looks exceedingly rosy.
He is employed as head book keeper by a
large Commission House, and although the
hours are long and the work rather trying, he
has no complaint to make, considering the condition
some of his friends are in. Through Christ's deduction
his trouble with his lungs occasionally results of having
a smell of Austrian gas while of the trunks, but
that is growing less and less as time goes by.
He thinks of all appearances that another great
war is in the offing, and is very thankful for the
fact that he is in America and not in Italy.
America can live in the future, while Europe is
dying in the past, and by any and all means must
America be prevented from entering the coming storm.
This man, is a first class citizen, and a credit to his
adopted Country.

Confidential.

Yours

By
man

Stanley Padin by Thomas Barnett
Joe Celli Italian 1474 Age 49 years.

A man to whom the depression gave the time to educate himself is Joe Celli, Italian, age 49, who came direct to San Francisco with his mother and father in 1906 when he was 19 years old. From the time he landed here Celli was forced to work hard at first for his parents and later for his own family. In Italy he had obtained the equivalent of a grammar school education and this was all the education he had. His parents had no relatives in San Francisco and but for the help of other Italians the going would have been very rough indeed. They came to San Francisco in June, just after the earthquake and fire and rented a small place on Divisadero street. They were bewildered not only by the strangeness of the new country but by the bleakness of the damaged city. But San Francisco was in the throes of rebuilding and both Joe Celli and his

father went to work for a contractor scraping bricks. All Joe remembers of those days were acres and acres of blackened bricks which he cleaned and scraped. Afterwards he was put to work carrying a hod and he worked at this for ten years until 1916. There seems at this time to have been no desire to educate himself. He worked, he ate and he slept - the years went by - and he had money in the bank. In 1917 he went to work in the ship yards. He made good money and when the war ended he had over seven thousand dollars. In 1919 he married and bought a grocery store in North Beach. He worked all the time, Sundays included and by 1927 he was well on the way to becoming a rich man. He owned three fruit stores and various property that brought him an income. But as all his friends were doing he started to buy stocks. In 1929 all his property was mortgaged and by 1931 he owned nothing. He and his wife moved into one room and Joe took a job washing dishes four hours a day. On the small salary he received

from washing dishes and doing other odd jobs
they managed to get along. It was at this time,
strangely enough, that Celli began to look around
him. It was the first time he really began to see
America. He explains this by saying that from the
day he landed in America he had to work so hard
he had no leisure for other things than just
making money. Also at this time he became interested
in books. His English was poor and on the advice
of a friend he took a course in English from the
extension division of Calif. University. His spare time -
and he had a great deal - was taken up with
reading. He read every book he could lay his
hands on. Celli washed dishes and did other
odd jobs until September of 1933. At that time
he secured a position through a friend as night
janitor in a downtown office building. He still
has it. His ambition now is to save
up enough money so that he can buy a
little restaurant out at the beach. There he
says he can work and read and watch -

the world go by. Celli is not better because
of the depression yet he makes a better observation
that pertains to it. He parrots out how hard he worked
for twenty five years - how much money he made -
how many people he cared for. Yet this is all
forgotten he says by his relatives and many of his
friends. Which isn't so awful at that - if
Celli only knew it.

1
The first part of the book is devoted to a description of the
various species of the genus *Amphibia* which are found in
the United States. The author gives a detailed account of the
habits and life history of each species, and also of the
various diseases to which they are subject. The second part of
the book is devoted to a description of the various species of
the genus *Reptilia* which are found in the United States.
The author gives a detailed account of the habits and life
history of each species, and also of the various diseases to
which they are subject. The third part of the book is devoted
to a description of the various species of the genus *Amphibia*
which are found in the United States. The author gives a
detailed account of the habits and life history of each species,
and also of the various diseases to which they are subject.

1619

Italian

Mario

He was born in Milan, Italy, in 1889, the son of a laborer and one of a family of eight children. His parents were very poor, and their living conditions were very bad, with rarely enough food to feed the entire family, nor adequate room in which to quarter them.

In 1910 he came to the United States seeking to find a more profitable life. He lived in New York City for two years, where he worked as a waiter in a small restaurant.

In 1912, he moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania, and got a job there as a waiter in a restaurant, and stayed there for ten years, during which period he managed to acquire a small interest in the restaurant.

In 1922 he sold his interest and came out to San Francisco in response to the suggestion of a friend there with whom he had been corresponding. He again went to work as a waiter in a restaurant, and continued to do so for five years, during which time he saved as much as he could with the idea of eventually opening his own restaurant. He has since done so.

In 1927 he decided to open a small restaurant in partnership with his friend, and has owned and operated it on the same basis since then.

His restaurant seems to have prospered enough to allow him to invest several thousand dollars in Bank of Italy stock, which sum he lost almost entirely in the spectacular crash of that corporation. However, his business continued to prosper, and he seems to have weathered the depression in good shape, and derives a steady income from his business.

He is a bachelor, having been, as he termed it, too busy to get married, and maintains a comfortable apartment and owns his own automobile.

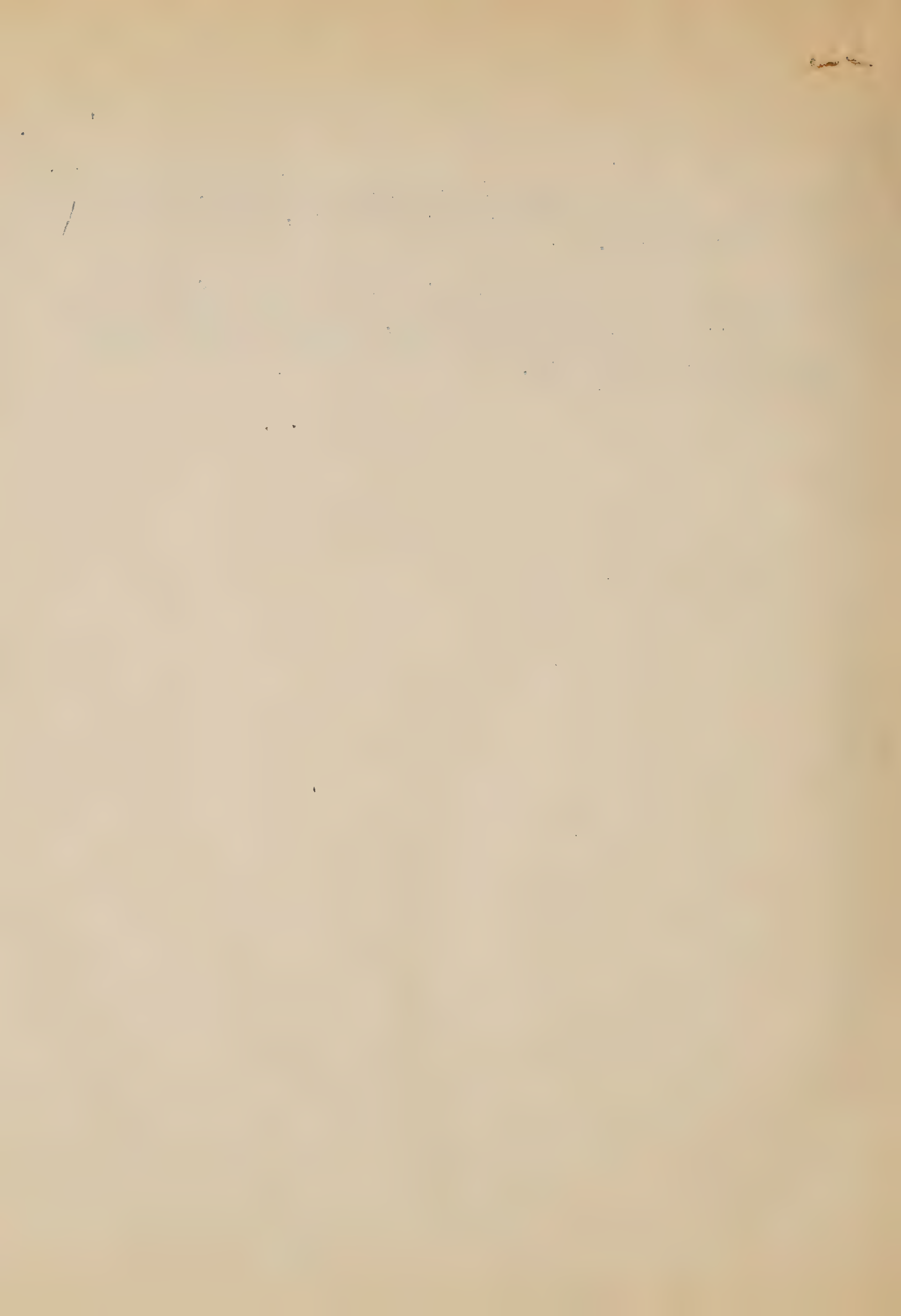
He plans to visit Italy next year, if his financial situation is such that he can afford to do so.

He admires Mussolini as a man, but would not care to live in Italy because he feels thoroughly American, and also is deeply opposed to war, which he believes is responsible for most of the present unrest and economic troubles today.

He seems not to have encountered any racial prejudice during his life, chiefly with Italians during his life.

He is not very interested in politics or economics, although he thinks the president is a remarkable man, and intends to vote for him again.

He thinks that conditions will continue to improve, and has great faith in the United States, pointing with pride to what he has accomplished in this country, and states that he probably would never have been able to rise to similar heights had he remained in Italy.



1622

Born in Italy 55 years ago. He had little schooling. Being dissatisfied with working on a small farm, he saved enough ^{money} to come to America.

Landing in New York, ~~he~~ secured work in the steel mills, in Pittsburgh, ~~and~~ saved enough out of this to start a small vegetable business. ~~and~~ ~~working~~ from town to town.

He ~~then~~ had the desire to come to California and decided to come to Oakland. He entered into the ~~same~~ work, and up to 1929 did very well, having two trucks operating.

Since 1929 his business has fallen off a great deal. ~~also~~ Owing to sickness of his ~~family~~ and relatives, he has lost all his savings. Though he is still in the same business he is ~~scarcely~~ ^{hardly} able to make a living for his family. ~~He has no musical or mechanical ability.~~ He came here to better his conditions. His father was a small landowner.

Biography of Mr. A. B. by M. Rinaldi

Mr. A. B. has 40 years married with 4 childrens.

I was born in Spoleto the year 1894 my father was a stone mason, my mother was a laundry worker.

During the summer season my father used to migrate to other towns for work and he was returning home late in the fall with some saving that would feed us during the winter. He was migrating because in other cities the wages was little higher.

In my youth my family send me to the elementary school and I still remember his saying: "I will be very glad if I can send my childrens to school so they will not be compelled to learn by them selve; I had to learn to read and write all alone."

At 14 father decided to take me with him in a way to get some more saving for the winter and be able to send the other brothers and sisters to school. That summer he went to work in Chiasso Switzerland; They were building an international State railroad depot and the wages was fr. 5⁰⁰ instead of Lira 3.50 to 3⁸⁰ a day; and there were I began to understand the difference between the republic and kingdom; I was their helper.

At the Age of 18 after being migrated for four summer I decided to come to the U. S. father agreed, but how raise the passage?

Father had to take care of the family, and I had no saving. But mother had a brother in Boston; I wrote to him, and I secured the passage.

The 4 November 1914 I landed in New York I went from there to my uncle in Boston which was working as cement contractor; It was not exactly my line but in few months I mastered the trade.

I worked there with him until I got married then I started the same business alone I was getting along fairly well, then the U.S. entered the World war I was forced to join because I was naturalized and I had to go abroad. When I returned my uncle was dead and my wife had settled in New York. I started again there as cement contractor and I could save some money, I invested it in the stock and I lost it all. I remained with the family and the house in which I was leaving in, but disgusted I decided to sell the house and I got 6.000 dollars; I came to California. I tried for business, but there were no work, I looked for job, but I could find none the money was disappearing, then I went to the Simon bed factory where I still work. I don't earn to save, I barely earn enough to keep the family going forward.

Out of the many I have interviewed relative to their emigration to America a few facts stand out. The Italians who come to this country usually have some relative or friends here who are already settled and prepare the way for them. Very few who come to America know the English language before they land. Among the Latin races I have found that one member of a family seldom comes alone. In the past it was whole families who picked up and left their native land to seek better fortune in America. I think this is not true of the northern races. The Irishman especially usually comes alone - leaving his family in the old country. A strange thing is my inability to get from those I interview their reactions to America when they first arrived. Was it far better than they had hoped or were

they bitterly disappointed, etc. No definite answer is forthcoming. The truth is that they were so busy getting settled and working they had no time to take stock of their first impressions and when they had become used to the country it was too late. Yes they liked America even from the first - but they were busy etc. Another thing that stands out among the Italians is that the new arrival at once settled down in a large colony of his own people. This was a sort of protection but it also kept him from at once getting into the American scheme of things. To me the most interesting Italians I have talked to have been those who were "on their own" as soon as they came here. The most American of all those who were here in the old country are those interviewed who served in the U. S. army. The army service in two years did what it would have taken twenty to do had they remained ordinary citizens.

~~Lena~~

Born in Italy in 1880
Parents--Farmers
Husband is a citizen

L.

Until she was 18, ~~Lena~~ helped with the outside work of the farm and took care of her younger brothers and sisters. When she married at 18 she went to live with her husband's folks. Among their many household duties the women had to include carding, spinning and weaving.

a

Her first child was a boy, born crippled from his spine. When they had three children her husband left for the United States. After two years he sent for her to come and join him where he was working in the Colorado Coal mines.

After the voyage, which is always terrifying to the peasants who are accustomed to good, firm land, she was detained two months at Ellis Island, because of the crippled son. Not knowing a word of English, nor seeing anything to do, she cried most of the time.

Her husband came to meet her, but there was nothing for them to do but return together to Italy. But they could not make a living. So he finally persuaded her to leave the crippled boy with her father and mother. They waited on him like a baby, hand and foot, until he died at the age of 28. ~~Lena~~ never saw him after they left, and she cries now to think of what her warm, motherly heart feels was the desertion of her child.

Altogether they went to the Colorado coal mines, where Lena cooked, washed, and kept beds for 12 miners--in a three room house. She milked several cows, and baked bread for her neighbors to increase the family income. She had a child every other year, with two miscarriages, two that died, and 6 girls and two boys who are still living.

By this tremendous exertion of energy, she and her husband saved enough to buy a farm with a nice 7-room stone house. Prosperity?

Now driven to desperation at their low wages and miserable conditions the miners struck, and held out valiantly for three years. But there was no work and no money, for it was purely a mining town.

During this time, the two children died, one who was hungry, from eating poisonous weeds.

Nearby the Ludlow Massacre was perpetrated. Thru their own little mining town, the militia also marched, and were fired on by the miners in their houses.

T

Breaking into ~~Lena's~~ house, where she was alone and 7 months pregnant, they charged that the shots had come from her house. Unaided, with grim determination and lashing tongue, she drove them from the house. A little farther down the street they beat a man unconscious when they accused of firing.

But the miners were not living in their own homes--No, the shack belonged to the coal company. So in freezing weather, the families were run out into a tent colony. But the militia broke up the tent

colony, one of their methods being to run a bayonet thru a baby and fling it out of the tent before its mother's horror stricken eyes.

By these ~~means~~ ^{means}, after three years, the strike was finally broken and all the strikers black listed. So they had to rent their hard-earned farm, for which they now get no rent, the family lives on it free.

They moved to a smaller town, and took up the struggle again to piece out a miner's wages to provide for a growing family.

The oldest girl, named for her mother, had always said she would marry someone named Ernest. And at 15 she eloped with "Ernest", and they are still living happily together now, 15 years later.

~~Lena~~ the second and Ernest came to California and the mother grew increasingly lonely separated from her daughter so she persuaded the family to move to California, too. Again, her husband came ahead, and she remained to dispose of the livestock, which she sold for a good price, all except 1 milly-goat, for whom no one would give anything like his value. So Lena, herself, knocked him in the head and sold him by the pound.

They bought a house and large lot, on which they have paid several thousand dollars. They have a cow and chickens and sell milk and eggs.

But times have been very hard for them. For a little while her husband worked at one of the factories but they turned him off because of his age. So he, his wife and all the children have worked in the cannery, where ~~Lena~~ the second is now a floorlady.

The oldest boy is a clerk in a bank at \$20.00 a week and is married. The second daughter works at the cannery, while her husband works part time at Ford's. The third daughter also works in the Cannery, while the 4th who has just graduated from High School with the highest grades in stenography and bookkeeping, works in a store both as a clerk and in the office.

~~Lena~~ raises vegetables and olives and cans all her own fruits and vegetables, and keeps her house shining with cleanliness, but she now buys her bread. She enjoys her electric washer and vacuum sweeper, but complains that now at 54 she can't turn off the work like she used to.

She thinks Roosevelt has not done much good, and expects sometimes there will be a revolution in the United States, but she doesn't expect to live to see it.

Name: Valenti Fuselli
Birthplace: Florence, Italy
Date of Birth: 1907 1540

Valenti's early childhood was lived within the environment of his merchant father's estate. It was colorless and forbidding. There was always the morbid Catholic dogma, the distant and mocking formality of his mother and father, and, of course, many servants and tutors. Valenti was a frail and sickly boy and so most of the time was not physically able to even enjoy the restricted fun invented by his sisters and brothers.

During Valenti's seventh year, at the beginning of the World War, his father, induced by American business interests and prompted by a keen desire to take himself and his family out of the circle of War, one day announced to the Fuselli family that they were all leaving for America.

Life in America for Valenti was nearly as dull as his former living within his father's mansion in Florence. Because of his illness he was not allowed, as his brothers and sisters were, to attend a private Catholic school. Valenti had to be content with learning English and the pretensions of democracy from a tutor. However his mother frequently took him with her on her visits to the public library. It was during these visits that he was attracted to the study of period furniture, French and Italian.

Thereafter, Valenti spent many hours in the public library studying the character of furniture. Later he not only succeeded in getting his father to buy all the

books anyone could possibly purchase on the subject of furniture but he also induced his father to buy many pieces of early Italian making.

Valenti grew stronger. By the time he was fourteen his parents felt that he was well enough to attend school. He was sent off to join his brothers and sisters at the Catholic school. There he majored in Catholic literature and draftmanship. After school hours he continued his study of antique furniture. During his holidays he always succeeded in getting his father to buy him an Italian or French antique.

Shortly after Valenti graduated from the Catholic school his father bought him an interest in an import antique furniture business. Valenti soon established within this business, an interior decorating trade.

Several years later a dealer from San Francisco met Valenti while engaged in buying. He told Valenti of the wonderful city, the romantic city and the one place where early Italian and French furniture was really appreciated. The friendship between the two developed and later they corresponded. Finally, Valenti was persuaded to go to San Francisco.

Valenti and his friend became partners in an interior decorating and antique furniture shop. Their business thrived until 1931. Six months later the partner sold his interest to Valenti. Very soon after that Valenti was forced to give up his large and pretentious business quarters. He now rents space within an older established

shop of the same character of his own. He stated that if it were not for the occasional assistance of his father he would have been forced to give up his business long ago.

Valenti Fuselli's cultural views are bottled within yesterdays. His political views are somewhat confused, however, he has a vague admiration for Mussolini.

Italian

1591

The immigrant came from a small town named
Prato, situated in the Province of Florence.
By Trade a Baker and confectioner, and
a first class one to hear him tell it.
His father had been an employee of the
Italian Civil Government, and because of that,
he had been able to gather a fair education.
When he joined the Army, which all natives were
to do and serve their time, he managed to
get an assignment in the Quartermaster's Department.
By this means, he was placed in charge of the
bread making and of cooking, until his time
expired.
He went back to his home town, and opened a
small shop, thinking he could make a comfortable
living, but after struggling along for a year,
making barely enough to live upon, he sold his
small establishment, and went to the city of Bologna.
He got a job in fairly large bakery, where he learned
how to make finger cakes and other confections.
After working there a couple of years, at what
was called a fairly good wage in Italy, he got
the idea. That proper place for him was in
America, where everybody had plenty of money
and more so in good years, and was making a good money.
Rather convicted though.

John

From Bologna he went to Genoa, and after staying there half a year, he took passage for New-York.

Arrived in New-York after a very rough trip, met a few people he had formerly known in Italy, settled down to make his home there, got a minor position in one of the big hotels, under an Italian chef in the baking and pastry department with the intention of working himself up to a good position.

Had thought he knew something about cake making, but found out that the New Yorkers forgot more about fancy cake baking, than he was able to. Had to start in all over again, but stuck to the job, and now considers himself the equal of any man, in his particular line of work. May honestly add, that I think this man has a pretty hard job to find a hat that will fit his head.

After learning all he could in New York, he had in the meantime, married an Italian woman, a widow with two children, he decided to try his fortune in California.

He arrived in San Francisco, about a year ago, was made a good man, and will make a good citizen. Rather convicted though.

and he intends, he states of never leaving it. He has been muchly awakened, regarding the plentiful supply of money he supposed every one had; has come to the conclusion, that there are a great many more people in the United States than there were in his home country.

Has been very fortunate himself, has a good job with good Union pay, a healthy family, and a small five room home, over half paid for. At home in Italy, his folks were considered to be in very good circumstances, and lived very well, as his father held a position of some prominence. But of late the letters he has received from his mother, have not been so favorable; he is afraid his father has made the mistake of opposing the Black Short Government, if he is correct in what he thinks, he intends to bring his father and mother to America, out of the power of Mussolini.

He believes that it will not be long now, before this country is in its feet again, as Roosevelt is a great leader. Is giving his children a good education, and is going to make another La Guardia out of the lot. This man is a good man, and will make a good citizen. Rather convicted though.

John

mm
h

P. Perleini.

Born in Trieste 1895. His father was a Slav and his mother was Italian (from Udine). He spent his childhood in a small village near Trieste, where his father was the village blacksmith. He went to a Slovenian school in Trieste and only finished four years of elementary education. At the outbreak of the World war in 1914 Mr. Perleini was taken in the Austrian Army, sent for training in Bosnia for a six month period, and then shipped to the Italian front. He took part in some of the first offensives in Tyrol mountains. His experiences in trenches are very interesting. They had routines in the army, sometimes because of food shortage and other times against strict discipline. He participated in some of them. At one time he was imprisoned for 30 days in the army barracks. He was often transferred from one company to another. Finally he was promoted (He had been made a corporal) and transferred to the red cross department. They had an organization of soldiers at the front (He would not.

tell the name of the organization). The typical function of this group was to punish their officers who were disliked by men. During offensive in the trenches, often many of the officers (those disliked by men) would be killed... Nobody knew how, but this secret group of soldiers did a lot of good for the welfare of the ranks and file.

In 1917 he was transferred (with all his division) to the Eastern front. With several battalions of Czechs (Czechoslovaks) they were sent to help the white armies of Wrangel against Bolsheviks. They had more mutinies; refused to fight the ~~bold~~ army. — He served in the war until the armistice.

After his return home he obtained a job in a ship yard near Trieste. He worked there until 1924. Got a passport for Canada and went there in 1924. In Canada he worked in coal and ore mines in British Columbia.

After he had saved some money he went to Montreal and opened a business (saloon). The business did not go so good and he lost all his savings. Finally he succeeded to enter U.S. and immediately obtain a job for food

Motor Co. in Detroit. This was in 1927. He worked there for three years. His typical job was operating a drill press - drilling holes all day long. He was getting good wages ~~and~~ but his employment was only of few months duration in a year. The rest of the time he was idle. Again he saw that he could not make any money (His chief ambition was to make a lot of money and return home as soon as possible). In 1930 he arrived in Portland and got a job in a restaurant. Here is where I met Pete. We worked together 3 years. Again he saved some money, again he bought himself a business (a restaurant) and again he went broke. He is back working for the old boss, somewhat discouraged about the possibility of making "big money." Politically he is inactive but claims a slow sympathy for Russia. He adheres to the philosophy of Slowphils. - "It is our turn now, we - the Slavs, - are going to show the world how." He is going to vote for Sinclair - although I doubt if he can vote.

the 1927. He married there in the
year. His typical but two of
a short time - shortening
day long. He was getting on
hope and but his sympathy
who only of few words
in a year. The rest of the time
was idle. Again he saw
he could not make any
(his chief contribution was to the
a lot - money and labor
no over so (possible) to
he remained in Scotland
get a job in Scotland.
no where I would not. He
married together 3 years. As
he saved some money, of
he bought himself a house
(a substantial) and again
went to the. He no look
for the old love, however
discouraged of the years
of making "big money".
He is in London but living a
his opportunities are with 15 years
He refers to the philosophy
Stoic - "It is not
man, we - the Stoic - are going
to show the world that
He is going to show
Stoic - philosophy
can vote.

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